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Arab-Israeli Talks

Mubarak, Christopher Hold Talks in Alexandria

NC0608140094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Alexandria, 6 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a session of talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in al-Muntazah Palace this afternoon. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker, and members of the U.S. secretary of state's delegation attended the talks.

King Husayn, Weizman Inaugurate Telephone Link

JN0708101594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0943 GMT 7 Aug 94

[The "first direct, public" phone conversation between Jordan and Israel, conducted between King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman on 7 August; from the "With The Midday Events" program—recorded, in English]

[Text] [Husayn] Hello.

[Weizman] Hello. Hello there.

[Husayn] Hello.

[Weizman] Hello.

[Husayn] Who's speaking?

[Weizman] 'Ezer Weizman.

[Husayn] Who's speaking?

[Weizman] 'Ezer Weizman speaking.

[Husayn] This is Husayn speaking, Mr. President.

[Weizman, in Arabic] Good morning.

[Husayn] [word indistinct] to hear...

[Weizman] Good morning, dear majesty [last four words in Arabic]. How are you?

[Husayn] Well, God bless you. [last four words in Arabic].

[Weizman] It's terrific talking to you. And I'm sure it's not [word indistinct] the last time. I enjoyed very much your flight over Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. I hope you did.

[Husayn] Thank you very, very much indeed. It was a very moving experience, and I enjoyed it very, very much indeed. I was very happy that I had this opportunity to speak to you, and I hope that we will continue to get in touch and I look forward to seeing you (?sometime) soon.

[Weizman] Up to you, Your Majesty, any time. You've got an open invitation to Jerusalem. And you just [word indistinct] within [words indistinct] of time.

Jordan, Israel Inaugurate Border Crossing

Rabin Addresses Ceremony

JN0808101094 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 0805 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Speech by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the inauguration of the al-'Arabah Jordanian-Israeli border crossing in southern Jordan—live]

[Text] Your Royal Highness, the Secretary of State of the United States, Prime Minister of Jordan, the Foreign Minister of Israel, ministers of the Governments of Jordan and Israel, ladies and gentlemen: The stagemaster, working in the service of history, has done us a great favor today. He has chosen this site as the ideal backdrop for the new relationships being formed between Israel and Jordan. We are literally seated at this time and this place, all of us—Israelis, Jordanians and Americans—on the remains of the past. We are sitting on an old mine field, which was cleared only three days ago. This is what divided Israel and Jordan for decades. This is the field in which death and destruction were sowed.

We are sitting at this time and at this place, all of us—Israelis and Jordanians—before the future. To our right and to our left stand the new Israel-Jordan border crossing terminals which sprang up over night. In a short time, tourists and businessmen from all over the world will start to pass through here from Elat to al-'Aqabah, from al-'Aqabah to Elat, from Israel to Jordan, and from Jordan to Israel. Three days ago, this was a wilderness. Only sand, and more sand. Today, this place teems with new life. Three weeks ago, the dream of peace was far away. Today, it is materializing—telephone lines, tourism. Soon it will seem as though this is the way it has always been.

Ladies and gentlemen: Friends say to us, the pace of events is too fast. We cannot keep up. Wait a moment. Your Royal Highness, our friends in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: We have waited 46 years. We have gone through war, pain, and suffering to prevent further loss, and so, we cannot wait even one day more.

It looks that the walls of hostility are tumbling down before our eyes and all this would have been impossible had not the two peoples, the Jordanians and the Israelis and their leadership, wanted this to happen. This is the first step on a long journey. There are still problems, difficulties, obstacles and challenges ahead. But the farsightness which has characterized our contacts in the past and which has compelled us to take the first steps towards peace and the spirit of responsibility and pragmatism that in the end we will reach comprehensive peace with the Kingdom of Jordan and with all our neighboring Arab countries. [sentence as heard]

Ladies and Gentlemen: In al-'Arabah, of which Isaiah says in the Bible, the wilderness and solitary place shall be glad and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.

We hereby declare the al-'Arabah border crossing between Israel and Jordan now open. Mazel tov, congratulations. [applause]

Prince Hasan Addresses Ceremony

JN0808103594 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 0805 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Speech by Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan at the inauguration of the al-'Arabah Jordanian-Israeli border crossing in southern Jordan—live; italicized passages are in Arabic]

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin, Secertary of State Christopher, Foreign Minister Peres, ladies and gentlemen, friends: It gives me great pleasure to join you all today to inaugurate the al-'Aqabah-Elat border gate. It is indeed a significant step towards the full implementation of the provisions of the Washington Declaration signed at the White House by his Majesty King Husayn, together with President Clinton and Prime Minister Rabin. The declaration comes after years of relentless efforts by His Majesty King Husayn to obtain a durable and comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Without prejudice to the outcome of the negotiations on the delineation and demarcation of our common boundaries, the opening of this border gate demonstrates our joint commitment to make a concrete contribution to peacemaking. Our presence here today signifies our determination to translate our intentions into tangible realities on the ground. Only in this way can we overcome the legacy of suffering and torment that dominates the daily life of our peoples and poisons the conduct of regional and international relations in this part of the world.

Jordan and Israel lie at the heart of the Middle East and constitute an important confluence between three continents—Europe, Asia, and Africa. It has always been our vision that under conditions of peace, the Middle East will be marked by the free movement of persons, capital, and goods across national frontiers. The al-'Aqabah-Elat border gate represents a physical demonstration of our desire to promote interregional transportation networks.

Our region is the birthplace of civilization. It is the crossroads of different cultures where their interaction has produced the sophistication that has enthralled mankind throughout the ages. Henceforth, third country citizens will be able to marvel at this precious heritage. It is only the first step in the long search to realize our vision of normal and harmonious good neighborliness. Let this gateway be a token of our resolve that soon our peoples will be able to share, exchange, and marvel at their common legacy.

Allow me to reiterate, the Prime Minister, the Secretary, what I said when I met with President Clinton and Foreign Minister Peres at the White House last October. The fundamental task of peace building is to alleviate the prevalent conditions of poverty and depravation in many segments of our societies. We agreed on the need to put an end to the politics of despair and dispossession. Peace should relate directly to the basic interests of those who bore the brunt of war by building material interdependence in major economic spheres. Let the opening of this border gate in this particular location mark the foundation stone on which we intend to build our common future.

To our great Jordanian people, who continue to seek peace and justice, I say: This day, which witnesses the opening of the border crossing, should be viewed as a signal of transit toward the just peace we conceive for our future generations. The challenges of peace require further commitment, effort, and work in order to transform the slogan of peace into facts of prosperity and progress on the ground. Peace should spark off the energies of creativity and change this desert into a story of success that will be remembered by generations. You have always supported your Hashemite leadership in times of war and peace and you were the best of the kinsfolk at hard times. God willing, you—as his majesty the leader has known you—will be the best of the kinsfolk when the sun of a new dawn shines in this region, which has suffered a great deal of pain and bitterness.

I would like to recall here the souls of our righteous martyrs of 1948 and 1967 and throughout the years of the conflict—those martyrs who sacrificed their blood in defense of the right of their homeland and people to a secure and dignified life. Jordan has throughout history been the gate through which civilizations passed, as well as the intersection where various currents converged. This has not at all changed the genuine nature or identity of this country. We have always been a bridge for good and hope. Here I recall that Jordan was the gate of hope for tens of thousands of people who crossed into this country during the Gulf crisis. We shared with them the little water, food, and medicine we had. Today, we open this crossing to facilitate the passage of our guests, nationals of the other countries, so that they will have the opportunity to be acquainted with facts and with our cultural heritage and carry to their peoples and states a humanitarian message on the region's dire need for development and the required water, energy, and infrastructure that will contribute to easing the suffering of our Jordanian citizen.

This crossing is also a confirmation of our understanding of adaptation and cooperation with the world without relinquishing our rights. What we witness today is another message to the world that the conflict in this region has dragged long enough and we are anxious that it does not last longer.

Prime Minister, Secretary of State, Foreign Minister Peres: Let it be a testimony to our joint commitment to turn the Jordan Rift Valley into a valley of hope, development, and prosperity for all our peoples. A durable peace must be underpinned by the will to do away with disparity and social injustice and build a commonwealth of shared human interests. If I may quote the Bible [he quotes in Hebrew to the applause of the audience], the English translation of which is: Turning the valley of trouble into a gate of hope. Thank you. I greet you. [preceding sentence in Arabic] [applause]

Syria Amends Disengagement Agreement Violations

TA0508181994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] Once again there have been political developments on the Syrian track. This evening we will disclose another two clear signals from Damascus about its willingness to make peace. In recent days the Syrians have amended violations of the disengagement agreement on the Golan Heights after they had refused to do so for many years. Also, two days ago Syrian television broadcast King Husayn's flight over Israel. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] With Jordan peace is being handled on a big scale. From Syria, on the other hand, we have been receiving positive signals. At this point these are only signals, but it is hard not to discern a trend. After our emotion over the broadcast of the signing ceremony of the Washington Declaration, we learned that King Husayn's historic flight over Israel was also broadcast on Syrian television two days ago. The editor did not even delete King Husayn's greeting of shalom to the Israeli plane.

And this is not all. Significant developments have been taking place in the field.

[Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres] With regard to Hizballah, to cite just one example, there have been conflicting signs. With regard to the no-man's-land areas, the Syrians have been more forthcoming.

[Rosen] Peres was referring to the fact that the Syrians, of their own free will, recently amended violations of the cease-fire agreement they had long refused to rectify. Officials in Jerusalem say that considering al-Asad's stinginess with regard to gestures, this represents almost a cry for peace. Hence, Peres is optimistic.

[Peres] I believe that in addition to the ceremonies with Husayn there will also be serious negotiations with Syria. As for the results, the Americans have been cautioning against exaggerated expectations, which they always do. I hope real progress will be made. [end recording]

Sources Cite Syrian Stand for Peace With Israel

MM0508123394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Aug 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Syria Proposes Sinai Model for Withdrawal, Provided Abrogation of Golan Annexation Announced Beforehand"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will receive U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher tomorrow to discuss developments in the situation in the Middle East, specifically following President Mubarak's recent meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus and also his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Taba. Sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syria has informed Egypt of its agreement to apply the Sinai model for an Israeli withdrawal in implementation of the peace process, but it is demanding that Israel submit prior and clear guarantees for a full withdrawal.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's Office of Political Affairs, has said that the coming weeks will witness greater progress on the Syrian track; that progress has actually occurred following Secretary Christopher's trips; and that the Syrian side wants to plug all the gaps when a peace agreement is signed and wishes to discuss the smallest details, especially with regard to the timeframe the negotiations could take to implement what is agreed upon [as published]. He said that the achievement of a comprehensive peace this year would be a real transformation in the Middle East region. It is something that everyone is focusing on in order to make it a reality.

The sources said that Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, met with Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian officials to coordinate matters ahead of the U.S. secretary's tour and to discuss ways of signing a peace agreement on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts in October. This is the role being played by Egypt and the United States. In addition, President Mubarak is keen to hold consultations with a view to achieving a comprehensive settlement and practical steps toward ending the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He also said that consultations are currently being held regarding the possibility of calling an Arab summit to assess the prospects for a comprehensive peace and subsequent results.

Well-informed political sources expect Damascus to present to Christopher an integrated Syrian plan listing all the Syrian demands specified for the achievement of peace with Israel. The plan comes as an amendment to the Israeli withdrawal plan and the points concerning normalization, withdrawal schedules, the dismantling of Jewish settlements on the Golan Heights, as well as proposals on the siting of early-warning stations, in addition to the dates [as published] for opening the border between the two countries.

The sources said that the Syrian plan will carry nothing new as regards Syria's insistence that Israel announce beforehand, and before engaging in bilateral negotiations, the abrogation of the decision to annex the Golan to Israel; that it recognize the international borders between the two countries as of 4 June 1967; that Israel pledge to refrain from talking about the linkage of the

Syrian presence in Lebanon and withdrawal from southern Lebanon; and that it refrain from interfering in Syria's internal affairs and the special Syrian-Lebanese relationship. The sources pointed out that during recent contacts at the Arab level and with Washington Syria stressed that the date for announcing the end of the state of war between the countries can only be set after practical Israeli steps to prove good intentions toward Syria and Lebanon.

Meanwhile, political sources have said that Christopher will convey U.S. assurances to Damascus about his country's commitment to the need to achieve a distinct step along the Syrian track before the end of the year. And that the recent Jordanian-Israeli accord does not represent any disparities and does not confuse the issues with regard to the various tracks.

The sources said that Christopher will seek—in cooperation with Cairo—to take extensive steps to persuade Syria to vigorously reenter the peace process and to focus on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, in addition to [stating] Washington's complete willingness to intervene vigorously between the two parties to the negotiations and to participate in the next rounds of negotiations.

PLO's Sha'th on Upcoming Peres Meeting

MM0808103394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
5 Aug 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Sha'th: We seek Arab-Islamic-Christian Commitment to Full Palestinian Sovereignty Over Jerusalem"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of international cooperation and planning in the Palestinian National Authority, has stated that he and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will, on 11 August, chair the meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee in Cairo, the first since October last year.

He explained that PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) will not be heading the Palestinian side at the meeting this time because "Abu-Mazin has fully withdrawn from executive work and is content with his work within the PLO outside that framework."

Sha'th told AL-HAYAH that the meeting "will discuss implementation of the Cairo agreement, future negotiations, and all the problems facing implementation of the agreement."

Sha'th confirmed that there were inter-Arab differences over Jerusalem and that the Palestinian side was currently trying to "secure Arab-Islamic-Christian support and an Arab commitment in favor of the Palestinians, reaffirming our right to sovereignty over Jerusalem." He said that the Palestinians were holding talks with Israel and Jordan on that matter.

He asked: "Why has Israel given King Husayn of Jordan powers over the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem and ignored the Christian holy places?" He added that "Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has created an inter-Arab problem that is not only religious, and Jordan has been brought into the picture to jeopardize the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations at no cost to Israel."

Sha'th added critically: "Israel has given King Husayn what Israel calls a historical right to the Islamic holy places only, as if Rabin has become the shaykh of al-Azhar."

He continued: "That is why all the Christian patriarchs came to Gaza to meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to reaffirm full Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem and all its Islamic and Christian holy places."

On the problems facing the Cairo negotiations on early transfer of authority and powers in the civilian sectors, he said that there was a problem regarding the taxes and budget sector and that it would be discussed next Monday [8 August]; but he added that "the problem is not because of us or the Israelis but because of the World Bank."

He added that "the Israelis have prepared the 1994 budget, which includes direct and indirect taxes as well as civilian sector expenditure, and they suggest that the Palestinian side collect the taxes and use them to meet the expenditures of these sectors. Our problem is: Would we be able to collect these taxes or not? At any rate, we need financial aid for six months. Therefore, neither we nor they are responsible for the problem. The World Bank is the problem." Sha'th added: "The financial problem is urgent, and its solution is in the hands of the World Bank. It will become even more pressing in the event of an early transfer of power, Israeli withdrawal, and elections." He emphasized that the "Palestinian side does not want to postpone the transfer of power issue. We want that to take place as soon as possible."

He added: "We could have finished that matter in this week's session (concluded the day before yesterday) but it will be open to negotiation at next week's session." He continued: "If we finish the matter of the taxes and the budget then we would move on to the issue of the elections the following week." He said that in the Cairo negotiations "there have been no problems so far," but he spoke of other problems pertaining to the implementation of the agreement and control of the crossings—"and the Israelis are still rejecting Palestinian supervision of these crossings."

Islamic Affairs

ICO Contact Group Issues Communique on Bosnia

LD0508154994 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 5, IRNA—Foreign ministers of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] here on Thursday lauded the principled stance taken by Bosnian Government.

Issuing a press communique at the end of a ministerial meeting in Geneva, foreign ministers said that the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina had showed its goodwill by accepting the peace plan. They further recalled that the five-nation contact group had envisaged taking rigorous action against the side which rejected the plan. They expressed their regret that such action had not materialized, and took note of the further escalation of hostilities by the Serbian side.

The foreign ministers reaffirmed that the independence, terrotorial integrity, sovereignty and unity of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina must not be compromised under any circumstances.

The foreign ministers reiterated their commitment to the achievement of peace in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The press communique called for the strict enforcement of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and imposition of new sanctions including the freezing of financial assets and property in foreign countries and severing of telecommunications links.

Foreign ministers recommended the effective protection of the existing safe areas, as well as establishment or extension of new safe areas/exclusion zones in the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

They urged the demilitarization of Sarajevo and the reaffirmation of its status as the undivided and united capital of the federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The communique called for the prevention of further and illegal flow of military assistance in manpower, weaponry and equipment from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia through the stationing of international forces along the borders of Bosnia-Herzegovina to offer mutual recognition to the Government of Serbia.

It urged the immediate confirmation of the inapplicability of the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council Resolution 713 to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and restoration of its right of individual and collective self-defence. In this context if no Security Council confirmation is forthcoming, the OIC membership, along with other UN membership may come to the conclusion that they can provide the means of self-defence to the government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina consistent with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

The press communique called for a programme for the free and safe return of refugees and displaced persons as well as the expediting of the work of the international tribunal established pursuant to the Security Council Resolution 829 in order to enable the persecution of those guilty of war crimes.

The foreign ministers considered it useful to establish an action oriented relationship and coordination between the OIC contact group and the five-nation contact group to facilitate a just and peaceful solution.

The foreign ministers also recommended that the OIC contact group meet at the summit level to review the steps taken by the five- nation contact group and the Security Council and make suitable recommendations in light of its previous resolutions and decisions.

Algabid Views Stance

LD0508144294 Rabat MAP in English 1308 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 05 (MAP)—In case the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina is not lifted by the UN Security Council, members of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] could unilaterally do so by providing the necessary military assistance to the Bosnian party, OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabid said here Thursday.

Algabid told the Moroccan News Agency "MAP" here that OIC contact group reiterated the request of member countries to the council to lift the embargo: "We regard the embargo as unjust and illegal and it is time to lift it to enable the Bosnia-Herzegovina protect itself" [as received], he added.

He also said that since the council has not pronounced on the matter, OIC member countries think that "nothing is lost" and wait for the council to impose effective sanctions against Serbia and to announce the lifting of the embargo. The contact group is composed of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia and Senegal.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 2 Aug

NC0708090294

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 2 August issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. No Israelis Involved in Preparing Schools' Curricula
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8. Columnist Urges More Aid to ex-Soviet Muslim Republics
9. Columnist Advocates More Dialogue With Youth

NO ISRAELIS INVOLVED IN PREPARING SCHOOLS CURRICULA

A 100-word summary on page 1 and a 1,000-word report on page 3 by Muhammad al-Abnudi and Tariq 'Abdallah detail a news conference held by Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din in which he asserts that no girl student who wants to wear the veil voluntarily and out of full conviction would be barred from school. The minister was speaking at a meeting with Awqaf Ministry imams and ulema in the presence of the Awqaf minister.

The minister also says that officials who replace the Arabic language and religious education lessons with other curricula will be brought to account, adding that more religious education and Arabic language lessons have been added to the curricula. "On the reports that Israeli experts are cooperating with the ministry's experts to draw up some Arabic language, national education, and history curricula, the minister denies that there is such a thing and stresses that he has not met a single Israeli official so far and that there is no cooperation between us and any Israeli in these fields. There are some U.S. experts on the curricula development committees but they have nothing to do with the curricula mentioned here. He adds that the religious and Arabic language curricula is at present being developed by high-level Islamic thinkers and experts, including his eminence Shaykh al-Ghazali, Mufti Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Marzuq, Dr. Ahmad 'Umar Hashim, and Dr. Muhammad al-Sa'di Farhud."

Dealing with the issue of coeducation in tourism colleges, which leads to vice, the minister says: "I will speak to the universities' principals on this issue because the universities are independent, according to the constitution."

SCHOLAR EXPLAINS PRIORITIES IN ISLAM

A 400-word report is carried on page 2 detailing a lecture delivered by Dr. Yusuf al-Qardawi at a seminar held at the Arab Society for Islamic Education on the priorities in Islamic jurisprudence. He says that the Islamic nation now has its priorities wrong to the extent that a soccer player is preferred to a writer or scholar and points out that Muslims now give priority to trivial and petty matters at the expense of more important issues. He adds that a balance must be created between interests, too, because not all interests are equal. Commenting on religiously disavowed issues, he says that "what is religiously disavowed should not be changed if this change entails something worse, that is, we have to accept one thing that is religiously disavowed to avoid something worse. This is why religion has not permitted just anyone to rebel against the ruler, shed blood, and kill innocent people."

30 MOSQUES RENOVATED IN AL-SHARQIYAH GOVERNORATE

A 120-word report on page 2 by Ahmad 'Asalah says that the Awqaf minister next week will open 30 mosques in al-Sharqiyah Governorate, which have been renovated and rebuilt at a cost of six million Egyptian pounds.

'AQIDATI ULEMA VIEW ETHICS OF DIFFERENCES

A 4,000-word report on pages 4 and 5 details the answers from 'AQIDATI's convoy of ulema to questions on the shari'ah at a seminar held at al-Nur al-Muhammadi Mosque in al-Masallah. The ulema answer various questions on the ethics of differences between Muslims and how these differences should aim for the public good and not be exploited for personal vanity. They also answer questions on gold dealings, the rights of men and women, the right of school children to wear veils, and the parents' duty to spend on their children's education and care.

WRITER SAYS HUMAN RIGHTS INTRINSIC IN ISLAM

The paper publishes on page 10 the second part of an article by Mu'min al-Habba', who argues that human rights were intrinsic to Islam before the West started to advocate them. He cites at length the actions and sayings of Prophet Muhammad to highlight the second major human rights point in Islam, trust: trust between individuals, individuals and society, rulers and ruled.

SCHOLARS WARN OF DANGERS OF SATELLITE DISHES

A 450-word report on page 17 says that senior Muslim scholars have warned of the dangers of a new cultural invasion coming through modern communications systems, especially the "satellite dish." Speaking at a seminar on "The Islamic World and Modern Communications," Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali says: "I am happy that modern media organs are at the disposal of Muslim propagators so that they can let the whole world hear the voice of the final divine message." After saying that this message fulfills all man's needs, Shaykh al-Ghazali sets out "the basis for protecting our societies from the dangers of these modern communications systems, especially the satellite dishes: specifically, that we should know ourselves and know that we have a divine message that does not succeed unless it possesses all the earth's bounties and blessings and uses them to serve this message. If we fail to appreciate our heritage and to mobilize all the forces of the universe to let right win over wrong, then we can only blame ourselves." Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Shahin, a teacher at the Science College in Cairo, warns of the dangers of receiving satellite channels' programs without doing anything about them, as this would be a great catastrophe for the Islamic world. Media teacher Dr. 'Inshirah al-Shal then sets out the following "six ways of confronting and limiting the dangers of satellite dishes:

- 1. By strengthening the nation's religious, ideological, and cultural structure by emphasizing the Arab and Islamic identity.
- 2. By strengthening national transmission and presenting strong programs that can attract viewers and thus close the door to foreign programs.
- 3. By supporting media exchange and integrating the Islamic countries' material and technological expertise and resources to strengthen the linguistic and religious links between them.
- 4. By selecting and presenting the right imported programs that do not pose a danger or a threat to our peoples' identity.
- 5. By applying technological standards for the use of satellites to limit their spread.
- 6. By using the satellite technology to emphasize the Arabic and Islamic presence in the world and not let others do so."

OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF ISLAMIC RELIEF IN BOSNIA INTERVIEWED

A 900-word interview with Dr. Sayyid Jum'ah, secretary general of the Council for Coordination of Islamic Relief in Bosnia [CCIRB], by Mamduh al-'Ishari and Jamal Salim is published on page 20. In reply to a question, he says that relief operations still need more material and financial support together with the personnel that are necessary to help reconstruction and rehabilitation. He says that "there are more than 2.5 million Muslim refugees and displaced persons, including 1.25 million refugees in neighboring countries and 1,299,278 displaced persons. The CCIRB is helping only 15 percent of them and there is an urgent need to provide food and clothes for 370,000 persons a week." He then says that the basic relief and reconstruction needs include housing, food, clothes, and health care. He notes that there are 20 Islamic relief societies operating in Bosnia and among the refugees camps in 14 European countries, and adds that there is coordination between these societies but a slow one due to difficult communications.

COLUMNIST URGES MORE AID TO EX-SOVIET MUSLIM REPUBLICS

A 150-word comment in the "Islamic Responsibility" column by 'Adil Dayf says that, despite the aid given by Islamic countries led by Egypt to Muslims in the ex-Soviet Union's Muslim republics, there is still a need for more. He urges Muslim countries to rally their aid efforts and help these countries rebuild the destruction visited on them by the communist regime. He adds that "Muslim countries can also invest huge funds in projects that are profitable to all. We warn against neglecting the Muslims' affairs in the new republics so that they will not face new problems, especially as they are coming under heavy pressures to sever their ties with the Islamic world."

COLUMNIST ADVOCATES MORE DIALOGUE WITH YOUTH

A 300-word comment by al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf in his column "A Call to Reason" on pages 23 and 24 praises the openness and frank dialogue that went on at the first conference of Muslim preachers and propagators. He says that this spirit should prevail at the meetings that will be held in the youth camps and that will be attended by the prime minister and ministers. He says that the youths should be given the opportunity for dialogue and criticism and expressing different views of their problems. Lectures, seminars, and dialogues are not enough to reconstruct the youths' thinking, he says, "but should be part of a national and complete plan to solve the youths' problems in which everyone takes part, starting with the Education Ministry and ending with the Social Development Fund. It is in this way that we can effectively help confront extremism and uproot terrorism."

Palestinian Affairs

Jericho Radio Reports 'Arafat Egypt Visit, Return

JN0608192794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Brother President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian National Authority, (?has returned) to the homeland following a short visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. During the visit, 'Arafat met with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The meeting was followed by another meeting between brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of information and culture; brother Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international affairs; and brother Faysal al-Husayni.

Following the meeting, President Yasir 'Arafat left Alexandria for the homeland. He was seen off by Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, a number of senior Egyptian officials, and Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo brother Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

President 'Arafat had left the homeland for Alexandria this morning.

Reports on Talks in Alexandria

JN0708092794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned home from Alexandria last night after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the presence of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The latest developments of the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track in particular, and in the region in general, were discussed during the meeting. The obstacles hampering the implementation of agreements reached with Israel, including the issue of crossing points, secure passage, release of prisoners, and the serious Israeli intention to close large agricultural areas in Jeftlik, were also discussed. The talks also dealt with several issues related to elections and the Palestinian side expressed a desire to hold them as soon as possible. The issue of holy Jerusalem and that of transferring powers prior to the spread of the national authority in the West Bank were also discussed.

Following the meeting, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he sent personal messages to the donor states urging them to expedite the delivery of promised aid to the Palestinians. He added that he discussed with President 'Arafat the steps the World Bank can adopt to expedite the delivery of aid.

It is noteworthy that the Palestinians have thus far received only $47.5 million out of $720 million promised by the donor states to the Palestinian National Authority.

Justice Official on Alexandria Talks, Aid

NC0808073094 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, "justice minister" in the PNA, in Gaza, by correspondent Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Welcome to our program.

[Abu-Middayn] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] Has any concrete progress been achieved in your talks with the Israelis?

[Abu-Middayn] The most remarkable recent development was an Egyptian-Palestinian meeting in which we discussed the situation. There are constant consultations between Palestinian and Egyptian officials as well as between President Yasir 'Arafat and President Husni Mubarak. Egypt has a leading role in the peace process. The tripartite meeting with Secretary Christopher produced complete understanding on two issues. One was about the problems created by Israel and its failure to act on the spirit of the agreement. These problems include the continuing confiscation of land in (al-Jiflik) in the Jordan valley. About 15,000 donums have been affected in this area, the bread basket of the West Bank.

There are also problems over the Rafah crossing. We want to open a line to the south, a link with the Arab Republic of Egypt, so as to bring in imports needed in Gaza. There has been complete coordination and full understanding on this point. These topics and ideas were then relayed to the U.S. side.

We also feel that the donor countries are somewhat lax. We made it clear that the future will be uncertain unless the economic situation improves. The Palestinians, with Egyptian support, presented these facts to U.S. officials, who agreed that lax behavior and a delay in the payment of aid to the Palestinians is harmful, detrimental, to the agreement. This was a positive development. We hope the momentum will continue until some economic breakthrough is achieved in Gaza.

[Abu-al-Majd] Are you saying that the meeting with the U.S. secretary of state was positive in the sense that the United States promised to take care of particular problems?

[Abu-Middayn] Yes.

[Abu-al-Majd] But do you have definite information as to when obstacles will be removed and assistance forthcoming?

[Abu-Middayn] We have timetables to go by. It is not so much an issue of promises but one of agreements. Technicalities are involved. Experts are working on financial schedules and budget issues concerning the Palestinian authority, its employees, and infrastructure and construction projects. There is a plan to build an airport, probably with Egyptian participation, in Rafah. We have been in power for under two months and need more time. European countries should move faster. Delays in assistance, as I said, could endanger the whole process. Existing programs should be faithfully carried out. I am not at liberty to elaborate on these programs because some details are confidential. But I am sure things will get better. We will probably get a chance to meet Secretary Christopher soon. I believe progress is happening, slowly but steadily.

[Abu-al-Majd] Negotiations are due to begin between you and the Israeli side in Cairo within hours and you will attend these talks. What will you focus on, especially when the release of detainees, the crossings, and granting the Palestinians powers equal to those given to the Israeli forces are issues still under discussion? Will you focus on these points or are there others?

[Abu-Middayn] The main topic of the Cairo talks is the transfer of power in the West Bank to the Palestinians. We are discussing power concerning five or six issues in the West Bank. We must take power gradually in the West Bank because problems there might be more complex from the technical point of view than in Gaza.

The Cairo negotiations may be approaching an end but some legal aspects have yet to be addressed. They may be completed within 48 hours.

You know that the detainees issue is central and is being undertaken by a committee other than the Cairo committee. But this issue is also raised in the Cairo talks in every stage of the negotiations. The Israeli side has been neglectful and evasive on the detainees issue. Perhaps things may be clear by the weekend.

[Abu-al-Majd] The Jerusalem issue is being raised extensively, especially after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli Joint Declaration, Amman's assurances to you, and the Palestinian desire, as 'Arafat asserted, to raise the Jerusalem issue with the Israelis.

[Abu-Middayn] According to the Oslo and Cairo agreements, the Jerusalem issue was postponed, basically at the request of Israel and the United States, to the final phase, because it is complex and thorny and concerns about 2 billion or more Muslims and Christians. The Israeli side has now opened that file and perhaps the discussion of Jerusalem may lead to the discussion of the final status of all the occupied areas.

We have agreed to delay the Jerusalem issue to the final phase but this does not mean the division of the issue. Jerusalem is not merely a Vatican-style solution; we do not just want a flag and nothing more. Jerusalem is a political issue concerning history, geography, Arabs, and Muslims. It cannot be divided or dwarfed in this way, which could lead to the peace process collapsing. Jerusalem is the axis of the entire peace process.

When the Israeli media raise this issue daily citing Rabin and his ministers, this means that the issue should be addressed now. The Jerusalem issue does not concern only east Jerusalem. We do not recognize west Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The issue of west and east Jerusalem has existed since 1947, not since 1967 following the June war.

Israel must know that east Jerusalem is a historical and geographical issue and involves every equation. Israel must realize the magnitude of this issue; it is not an issue of whether a plane should fly there or a flag get raised and so forth. These are not the symbols that the Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim nation wants. This issue should have been postponed but since it was opened in this crude manner we must not give up. We must face the situation with the utmost courage, frankness, and clarity and rally the Arab and Islamic world around it.

'Arafat Accuses Rabin of Obstructing Agreement

JN0608091994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 gmt 6 Aug 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of obstructing the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. 'Arafat said the United States is responsible for Israel's violation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. This is the first public statement in which President 'Arafat has directly accused Yitzhaq Rabin.

President 'Arafat said the present situation cannot go on. He said it is difficult to unilaterally implement the peace of the brave agreement, because this will result in an explosion. 'Arafat protested Israel's continued closure of the Rafah crossing point, detaining Palestinians coming to Gaza under harsh conditions, and delaying the arrival of the two helicopters.

The Palestinian-Israeli agreement allows Palestinians safe passage via three crossing points in addition to the Rafah and Allenby crossing points.

'Arafat Has Saudi Support Over Jerusalem

JN0608193494 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 8 Aug 94 p 20

["Exclusive" report from Gaza]

[Text] The issue of religious sovereignty over the city of Jerusalem will assume larger dimensions as days go by. Several Arab and Islamic capitals are now involved in this issue. This report sheds light on the latest developments in this regard.

No sooner had the Jordanian-Israeli agreement seen daylight than Yasir 'Arafat issued orders to his top adviser, Nabil Sha'th, the official in charge of planning in the self-rule authority, to travel (secretly) to Saudi Arabia to discuss this issue. So he did.

In Riyadh, Sha'th held a lengthy meeting with Saudi officials, after which Sha'th was given a message to 'Arafat the gist of which is that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stands by him "wholeheartedly" in his current "battle" over religious sovereignty over East Jerusalem, and that Saudi Arabia supports his position, which rejects the part related to the holy city in the Jordanian-Israeli Washington Declaration, financially and politically.

Information received by AL-MUHARRIR from reliable Palestinian sources indicates the visit was "successful." Saudi Arabia pledged to extend urgent aid to the self-rule authority, after the donor nations weaseled out of their promises.

According to the sources, Saudi officials asked Nabil Sha'th to tell 'Arafat that he should quietly try to persuade the employees of the Islamic Awqaf Department in Jerusalem and the occupied territories to break their ties with Jordan, including ceasing to receive payments from the Jordanian Government in return for a definite promise to pay their salaries from now on.

Information available to AL-MUHARRIR indicates that immediately afterward Yasir 'Arafat summoned some senior officials of the Awqaf Department and asked them to break their ties with Jordan. He also asked them to talk the department employees—who number more than 4,000—into "abiding by this step in the interest of the Palestinian people and the Arabism of Jerusalem," as he put it.

Information also indicates that the Awqaf Department officials took 'Arafat's request lightly, even though they said they would sound out the views of their colleagues, out of their conviction that such a measure would affect their livelihood in return for verbal promises similar to the promises made by the donor nations to 'Arafat.

Sources in the know say Riyadh still seeks to "buy" 'Arafat's approval of the right to religious sovereignty over Jerusalem, despite the Washington Declaration, in order to foil King Husayn's efforts. King Husayn thinks he is the most eligible to hold the right to this sovereignty.

At any rate, observers in the occupied territories think 'Arafat's efforts—supported by Saudi Arabia—to isolate Jordan regarding the religious sovereignty over the city of Jerusalem, will fail, for more than one reason. First, Israel insists on giving the Jordanian monarch the responsibility for overseeing religious sites in Jerusalem, since this is one of the major conditions for peace with Jordan. Second, separating religious and political sovereignty over East Jerusalem is in the interest of Israel in order to define the features of the final-status negotiations, even before they start. This would also prove to 'Arafat that a final solution to the question of Jerusalem will not be anything more than a religious solution, while sovereignty over the holy city shall remain eternally Israeli. Third, the Awqaf Department officials do not want to get involved in Arab conflicts, because they know that there are no permanent friendships or hostilities between Arab leaders. Therefore, they do not want to be the only scapegoat of these negotiations.

Official on Jerusalem, AL-NAHAR Closure

TA0508183594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Interview with Intisar al-Wazir, identified by her nom de guerre Umm-Jihad, "minister of social affairs" in the PNA, by correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem in Jerusalem; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Wazir] We emphasize Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem because it is the capital of the Palestinian state. As for the future relations between us and Jordan, this will be decided by our two peoples later—upon the establishment of the Palestinian state, God willing.

[Ben-Menahem] For example, the issue of the Temple Mount. Should the Temple Mount be under Palestinian or Jordanian administration?

[Al-Wazir] First of all, discussion of the Jerusalem issue has been postponed to no later than the beginning of the third year from the signing of the agreement. We hope that all these issues will be discussed in the final stage and just solutions will be achieved for them that will ensure Palestinian sovereignty over holy Jerusalem, capital of the independent Palestinian state. We cannot separate political sovereignty from religious sovereignty over the shrines and holy sites.

[Ben-Menahem] Should the Temple Mount be under Palestinian or Jordanian control?

[Al-Wazir] We will reach agreement on this issue with Jordan. Israel has no right to grant sovereignty to any party over the Temple Mount as long as the Jerusalem issue is one over which discussion has been postponed. We and Jordan are one people and will resolve our differences between ourselves. I hope that a summit meeting will be convened soon with his majesty King Husayn, for whom all of us as the Palestinian people harbor the utmost affection and appreciation, so that these obstacles or differences which have risen and which were caused by the Israeli authorities will be overcome.

[Ben-Menahem] But Jordan has agreed to have priority over Jerusalem without consulting the Palestinian side?

[Al-Wazir] I told you that we will resolve this issue with our Jordanian brothers. There is no disagreement between us and Jordan. The disagreement is over the independence of Jerusalem and over the fact that it becomes the capital of an independent Palestinian state.

[Ben-Menahem] Mrs. Umm Jihad, a current topic of discussion in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is that of the closure or banning the distribution of AL-NAHAR. Some people are saying that the Palestinian Authority does not grant freedom of expression to all the Palestinian people. What is your reaction to this kind of talk?

[Al-Wazir] First of all, AL-NAHAR is an Arab and Palestinian newspaper inside the West Bank. It has been asked to obtain an official license for publication and distribution in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the territories of the Palestinian National Authority [PNC]. I believe this is an administrative problem and has no connection whatsoever to freedom of the press, because we are a democratic people and will struggle for freedom of the press, the individual, and opinion, and for political pluralism.

[Ben-Menahem] So the newspaper's closure was not caused by its pro-Jordanian positions?

[Al-Wazir] No, no. I told you: We and Jordan are one people. We are working for the liberation of Jerusalem and all the Palestinian soil occupied in 1967.

[Ben-Menahem] Mrs. Umm-Jihad, there are many problems in terms of foreign aid to the PLO—the National Authority—particularly by the donor countries. This issue was even raised during U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's recent visit. What did you agree on with Mr. Christopher? Will aid actually reach the PLO?

[Al-Wazir] The problem was raised with Mr. Christopher and he promised to exert his utmost efforts to resolve it. There are projects for building the PNA's infrastructure which the donor countries have pledged to promote. These projects do not require any involvement by the PNA. The decision is up to the donor countries alone. So far, implementation of these projects has not begun. All that we have received are promises. We are facing a serious financial crisis that is actually impeding the work of the PNA and is rendering it incapable of undertaking its commitments toward its people and masses. We need a period no less than six months in order to obtain financing from the Palestinian people through taxes and custom duties that will be collected by the Customs Authority from the people.

Sha'th on Talks With Jordan, Israel on Jerusalem

JN0608162794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, has said that the PLO is holding talks with Israel and Jordan to emphasize Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem. Sha'th added that the Palestinian side is now trying to gain Arab, Islamic, and Christian support to reaffirm Palestinian sovereignty in the holy city.

Dr. Sha'th said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has created an Arab-Arab problem by giving King Husayn a historical right to the Islamic holy shrines as if Rabin is the shaykh of al- Azhar. Sha'th added that by doing this, Rabin is trying to obstruct the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Abu-Sharif on Jordanian, Syrian Tracks, Jerusalem

JN0608154194 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Aug 94 pp 1, 18

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpts] Amman, Paris—Bassam Abu-Sharif, a senior adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has asserted that the results of the Washington talks between His Majesty King Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin constitute important leverage for the Palestinian leadership to complete the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreements and to enable the Palestinian people to regain their full national rights on their soil, foremost of which is their right to build their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B by telephone, he called for urgent Palestinian-Jordanian meetings to be held at the highest level to reach a joint understanding on the issue of Jerusalem. He also warned against falling into the Israeli trap, which is aimed at creating estrangement and differences among the citizens of the one Palestinian-Jordanian people. [passage omitted]

Abu-Sharif hinted that Syria would sign its declaration of principles with Israel next month, becoming the third Arab party after the PLO and Jordan to sign a declaration of principles with Israel.

The Palestinian official said that the signing of such a declaration between Damascus and Israel would benefit the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks and would clear the way for applying Resolution No. 425 calling for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

The political adviser to the Palestinian president also criticized a decision to close AL-NAHAR newspaper, calling in a mistake, and said that the decision conflicts with the traditions of the PLO, whose leadership has patiently endured much criticism from various sides. He then urged everybody to safeguard the democratic rights of every Palestinian citizen. [passage omitted]

Regarding Jerusalem, he said that political sovereignty over East Jerusalem, which was occupied in 1967, must be Palestinian, and clarified that Muslims, Christians, and Jews have holy places in the city and that freedom of worship should be guaranteed for the followers of these religions.

Abu-Sharif added that responsibility for Jerusalem is an Arab-Islamic one and that all the Arab and Islamic countries should work to prevent the Judaization of Jerusalem and any changes to it.

Quray' on Economic Relations, Talks With Jordan

JN0708093994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 24

[Report by Samir Sa'd-al-Din in Jerusalem]

[Excerpts] Occupied Jerusalem—Ahmad Quray', Palestinian minister of economy, has said: Our relationship with Jordan must be promoted and consolidated in all fields. It is the duty of both Palestinians and Jordanians to organize this relationship and to set frameworks for it. Otherwise, we all will lose. He told AL-DUSTUR: After the establishment of the Palestinian entity, many questions that need answers have arisen. We must be clear, especially regarding the questions which reflect concern. He added: We on the Palestinian side will soon work with our Jordanian brothers to implement the joint economic action program. A delegation will head for Amman at the soonest possible opportunity.

He continued: Since our relationship with Jordan is interrelated and irrevocable, we must discuss and agree on all issues. This relationship has been produced by factors of brotherhood, joint history, and a common future. In view of the creation of the new Palestinian entity, it is necessary to lay down firm foundations for a growing and close relationship with Jordan, taking into account the interests of the two peoples and their common future. [passage omitted]

Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] dismissed charges that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement has enhanced the subordination of the Palestinian economy to Israel. He stressed that this agreement has drawn the Palestinian economy out of the grip of the Israeli economy, which controlled the Palestinian economy and kept it from growing and developing throughout the years of the occupation.

He also stressed that the Palestinian economic orientation is toward the Arab world. He said Jordan is the key to this world. Therefore, he said, we do not prefer dealing with the Israeli economy to the Arab world.

Abu-al-'Ala' noted: During my meeting with the Israeli minister of finance, he asked me: Why do you not encourage the establishment of joint Israeli-Palestinian companies? I told him that we now prefer to ask for Palestinian and Arab investment. [passage omitted]

Abu-al-'Ala' stressed: Our pan-Arab interest is to deal with Jordan and the Arab world. An important round of talks will be held with Jordan in the near future to discuss various joint economic needs.

'Arafat Bans Third Newspaper in Self-Rule Area

JN0508112494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Aug 94 pp 1, 20

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem, QUDS PRESS—Palestinian sources in Gaza have said that 'Arafat recently instructed that the circulation of the weekly AL-BAYAN, issued in East Jerusalem, be banned in the self-rule area. The sources added that an official in the self-rule authority told the paper's correspondent and distributor in Gaza that the paper must obtain an official circulation license from the authority.

'Abd-al-Hadi al-Bitar, the paper's publisher and chief editor, told QUDS PRESS he has not received any official instruction in that regard from the Palestinian authority. He stressed that the paper will appear today as normal. Al-Bitar, however, did not deny that his correspondent in Gaza was informed verbally that the paper will be banned.

Almost a week ago, the Palestinian Authority banned the circulation and publication of the daily AL-NAHAR and the weekly AKHBAR AL-BALAD. Both papers are based in Jerusalem.

AL-NAHAR Ban Continues; Officials Comment

Officials on Press Freedom

JN0508151294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Report by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi; from the "With the Midday Events" program]

[Text] A week after the Jerusalem-based AL-NAHAR newspaper ceased publication in compliance with a decision by the Palestinian National Authority, PNA, the owner of AL-QUDS—now the only daily in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem—has placed restrictions on his paper's correspondents. The paper's proprietor, Mahmud Abu-al-Zuluf, asked journalist Dawud Kuttab, to cease adding his byline to reports and articles appearing in AL-QUDS.

Dawud Kuttab's reaction: [Begin Kuttab recording] I want to keep writing for AL-QUDS. At the same time, I would like to see all newspapers and journalists enjoy freedom of expression. I can't say whether a Palestinian official prompted the decision that my pieces not be bylined. I don't know what misunderstanding has led the paper to feel that I was the author of the notion that Yasir 'Arafat himself ordered this. Obviously, the outlines of a budding relationship between PNA officials and the media are still being drawn. The relationship is still nebulous, with each side trying to increase its clout. [words indistinct] the various parties on the question of the media. Hopefully, the PNA will settle down and show forbearance and let the press go about its business unfettered. [end recording]

Dr. Samir Ghawshah, a PNA member, is opposed to the measures, which he says run counter to the basics of free speech and democracy, which the Palestinian leadership has consistently advocated.

[Begin Ghawshah recording] The PNA was explicit about freedoms in general. It laid emphasis on political pluralism, the freedom to launch political parties, the freedom of expression and the press, and democratic traditions, including direct, free and fair elections. I joined the PNA on the understanding that it would be a democratic authority that will let all political forces air their opinions—for or against the PNA. We say yes to the supremacy of law, political pluralism, freedom of the press and opinion, democratic elections, and institution building on a democratic basis. [end recording]

Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, a Palestinian People's Party supporter, is alarmed by the measures.

[Begin al-Khatib recording] In my opinion, the closure of AL-NAHAR and the subsequent developments, including brother Dawud Kuttab's episode, are alarming. The success of the PNA will principally depend on winning the trust and support of the Palestinian man on the street. Such measures certainly won't help, and hopefully we will see no more of them. I hope we will see the freedom of expression and opinion fully respected. [end recording]

We unsuccessfully sought the reaction of AL-QUDS' proprietor and editor Mahmud Abu-al-Zuluf. He would say only that Dawud Kuttab was not on his paper's payroll and that there had been no interference in the matter by any Palestinian official.

AL-NAHAR Journalist Cited

JN0508123194 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 6-12 Aug 94 p 15

[Excerpts] Banning the distribution of the Jerusalem-based newspaper AL-NAHAR, oppressing the opposition, and preventing freedom of expression in the occupied territories is a serious issue facing the newly-established Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. Wide protest campaigns were launched by Palestinian journalists, writers, and public opinion. These campaigns were represented by issuing protest and denunciation statements and by addressing messages to the PNA's head.

PNA leaders, including its head, were divided into two groups over the reason for confiscating thousands of AL-NAHAR issues. The PNA's head and a group of PNA political leaders justify the confiscation on the pretext that there conditions require special distribution permits in the self-rule areas. Other leaders said the reason was the paper's opposition to the PNA and its head, Yasir 'Arafat.

PNA head 'Arafat said: Those in charge of the pro-Jordanian newspaper AL-NAHAR should respect our laws and obtain permits or a license from the PNA and not from any other party. Political observers linked the ban on the paper's distribution in the self-rule areas on Thursday [4 August] to the PNA's statement on Friday which accused the paper of lacking the requirements to be issued, and to the Washington Declaration which acknowledged the special historic Jordanian role in the holy places in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

SHIHAN contacted AL-NAHAR asking about the issue. A responsible journalist said: Banning the paper's distribution, and thus closing it, was a message addressed to King Husayn objecting to the third clause of the Washington Declaration, which acknowledges the special Jordanian role in the holy places in Jerusalem.

In a telephone call with SHIHAN, the journalist, who declined to mention her name, fearing that security measures would be taken against her, added that banning the paper's distribution was a political decision, contrary to what the PNA tried to justify. This is because the paper did not commit any mistake and did not publish any report in any of its issues harming or criticizing the PNA.

She pointed out that all PNA members (the Palestinian ministers) support AL-NAHAR and oppose this unfair decision. Referring to 'Arafat, she said that decisions are made by one person.

With regard to popular Palestinian reactions to this decision, the journalist said there is a tumultuous wave of wrath in the Palestinian street against this decision. There is consensus among all Palestinian political factions, including the Fatah movement led by Yasir 'Arafat, on this issue. She noted that this angry reaction was not due to closing and banning AL-NAHAR, but because this decision damaged one of our basic values, for which we have been fighting occupation and for the supremacy of freedom and democracy. The angry reaction was also due to the fact that the PNA's head does not believe in the promises he made.

The journalist said all segments of the Palestinian people are very concerned about this step. She said: In his contacts with Israel, President 'Arafat sought to facilitate the entry of police, security, and intelligence personnel, but made no effort to ensure the return and entry of the Palestinian intellectuals and experts in all fields.

The journalist said: The people's worst expectations came true. The people were afraid that the entry of the military will lead to a military rule. That is the reason why all Palestinian factions and forces, even the ordinary Palestinian citizen, came out in support of us to prove that we want a democratic society.

Regarding the decision by the newspapers' management to stop publication, the journalist said: At the beginning (last Thursday), we were stopped at Erez crossing point and prevented from circulating the paper in Gaza. We then received several phone calls to stop circulation in other West Bank towns. Masked men came to the newspaper offices in Jerusalem and asked the management to stop circulation in East Jerusalem. That is why we stopped publication.

AL-NAHAR, which was launched in 1985, calls for a Jordanian- Palestinian coordination, leading to a full unity as part of a comprehensive Arab unity.

The paper, which employs some 60 journalists and employees and has agents and distributors in all towns in the West Bank and Gaza, circulates between 8,000 and 10,000 copies a day. It is the second biggest paper in the occupied Arab territories in terms of circulation figures.

No Date Set for Republishing

JN0708110894 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 13

[Unattributed report]

[Excerpt] Reports from the occupied territories have said no date has been set so far for the republication of the Jerusalem paper AL-NAHAR, which ceased publication a week ago following the Palestinian National Authority's [PNA's] decision to ban its distribution in the self-rule areas. Reports say Palestinian journalists' criticism of the PNA has increased because of the PNA's recent measures restricting the freedom of the press, especially after journalist Dawud Kuttab of AL-QUDS was laid off after his attempt to send a petition signed by 37 journalists to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat against this background. The reports cited Kuttab as saying that AL-QUDS Chief Editor Mahmud Abu-al-Zuluf is under pressure by the PNA to monitor the paper's correspondents and to take additional measures against whoever criticizes the PLO.

Meanwhile, the administration of the AL-TALI'AH weekly, the mouthpiece of the Palestinian People's party, has decided to suspend the weekly's publication for the next four issues. In a front-page notice in its latest issue, the paper said that it has decided to suspend publication because of administrative and technical requirements to counter the difficulties that have been produced by the current stage and to face up to the requirements of the next stage.

It is noteworthy that AL-TALI'AH weekly has been issued regularly since 1978. Bashir al-Barghuthi, secretary general of the People's Party, served as its chief editor until May 1994, when writer Mahmud Shuqayr, who was allowed to return by the Israeli authorities, was appointed chief editor. [passage omitted]

Staff Petitions To Meet 'Arafat

JN0808101394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Aug 94 p 12

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian journalists stepped up pressure on Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasir 'Arafat to reverse a ban on the distribution of the Arabic Language daily AL-NAHAR Sunday [7 August] with a petition seeking a meeting with them in person to discuss the measures his government was taking against freedom of the press.

"We have petitioned the PNA president to meet an AL-NAHAR delegation in Gaza and discuss the ban on the AL-NAHAR and freedom of the press," an AL-NAHAR staff member told the JORDAN TIMES Sunday in the first telephone interview conducted by the paper after direct telephone services between Jordan, Israel and the occupied territories was introduced Sunday.

"We began this petition several days ago and so far we have not gotten an answer and it does not look like 'Arafat wants to talk to us," said the AL-NAHAR staff member on condition of anonymity.

The July 29 decision to ban the distribution of AL-NAHAR, which is considered pro-Jordanian, was made by Mr. 'Arafat and came after His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin agreed to end 46 years of hostilities between Jordan and Israel, and Israel acknowleged Jordan's historic role in Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

The reference to Jerusalem, which Palestinians consider the capital of their future state, reportedly infuriated the PNA president and led to a backlash against the pro-Amman paper.

At the time of the ban, PNA authorities said that the paper did not have a license to operate. But most Palestinian journalists and politicians say that the licensing issue was used as a pretext to stop the papers' distribution.

AL-NAHAR staff members say that most PNA ministers including Minister of Information Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, as well as Faysal al- Husayni, Samir Ghawshah and Palestinian human rights activist and former spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi are all supportive of AL-NAHAR's right to continue publishing and distributing.

"The whole government is behind us. They were not consulted," said the AL-NAHAR staff member. "The decision to ban distribution was taken by one person and now we are trying to see that person," he said.

The only other operational Arabic daily newspaper, the AL-QUDS, Saturday sacked one of its prominent writers, Dawud Khattab, after he signed a petition against the closure of AL-NAHAR.

Palestinian journalists say that they fear that Mr. 'Arafat plans to ban any voice of dissent in the Palestinian press. A mouthpiece of the PNA president, called the AL-AQSA newspaper, is being prepared for distribution in the occupied territories and the self-rule areas.

Palestinian journalists, intellectuals, human rights, activists and politicians are creating lobbying groups in the occupied territories to pressure the PNA to apply democratic methods and allow for full freedom of speech under Palestinian rule, activists said.

Fatah Central Committee Calls Emergency Meeting

JN0808101694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Aug 94 p 29

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee today will hold an emergency meeting in Tunis initiated by committee member Sakhr Habash, the movement's mastermind.

Palestinian sources have told AL-DUSTUR that President 'Arafat may attend this meeting due to its importance, especially after the implementation of self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho and since Fatah is leading the current stage.

The sources said the committee will discuss five issues on differences within the committee. These include Palestinian-Jordanian relations, Jerusalem, recent appointments in Gaza and Jericho, as well as some negative practices by individuals within the [Palestinian National] Authority in Jericho. The committee will also discuss Palestinian security measures taken after the incidents at Erez crossing point.

The sources said that there is general Palestinian disappointment regarding Palestinian security measures and there are demands by the masses, particularly the workers, to cancel these measures.

Sakhr Habash has prepared a 150-page study on the future of Fatah after the implementation of self-rule. In the study, he called for maintaining the movement and its cadres as a preventive measure in case the self-rule experiment fails.

'Abbas Zaki and Major General Muhammad Jihad left Amman for Tunis yesterday to take part in the emergency meeting.

Power To Be Transferred to PNA on 15 Aug

JN0708092494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] During their latest talks in Cairo, the Palestinians and Israelis agreed to transfer power to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in the fields of education, health, culture, tourism, taxes, and social affairs in the West Bank as of 15 August. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, said the Palestinian-Israeli liaison committee will meet on 11 August to draw up the mechanism of transferring power to the PNA. This will be accompanied by a redeployment of the Israeli Army away from populated area, as stated in the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington by the PLO and Israel.

Islamic Jihad: Continuation of Jihad 'Only Option'

MM0508171294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Aug 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Islamic Jihad: Continuation of Jihad Is Our People's Only Option"]

[Text] Damascus, AL-HAYAH—The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, led by Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, has emphasized that "the only option" open to the Palestinians in the present circumstances is "continuation of the jihad," and that the Palestinians "will never accept the curse of an alternative homeland" in Jordan.

A statement issued by the movement in Gaza, a copy of which reached AL-HAYAH's office in Damascus, said that after studying the political situation inside [the occupied territory] "the movement concluded that the only option open to our people is continuation of the jihad with all our strength and resolve." The statement added that "the Erez massacre was not a passing incident.... It was a reflection of the established Zionist facts and the established Palestinian facts. The Zionists harbor hate and a grudge against our people and a desire to kill and destroy."

The movement pointed out that the Palestinian people's economic conditions "are getting worse as our people just eat the canned promises of the plundering states.... The state of siege and the denial of livelihood and lack of work are threatening our people's internal situation and warn of a serious accumulation of tension which could explode and undermine our people's internal peace and the relations of solidarity and cohesion."

It added that "the autonomy authority's insistence on the appointment of the municipal council members in Gaza and Nabulus, tailored in advance to the wishes of that authority,...threatens to cause cracks in the Palestinian structure and to shift the confrontation to the ranks of our people after the intifadah had united us all against our real and common enemy."

On the Palestinian detainees, the statement said that "the prisoners are still suffering double repression in the dungeons of the occupation.... We owe it to these heroes to follow in their footsteps and also work for their unconditional release." It added that the "agents" of Israeli organs have resumed their activity, "threatening to wreak vengeance on the mujahidin who used to cleanse the intifadah's ranks of agents." It said that "the danger of the agents was less and their influence was weaker when they were under the protection of the Zionist occupation forces. It is quite ridiculous for Mosad agents to be protected by Palestinian guns."

On the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, the Islamic Jihad Movement said that the agreement "is a dangerous link" in the Israel scheme "and it has ready mechanisms for Zionist expansion in our Arab and Islamic worlds. It also shifts the conflict arena to Jordan through rivalry between Jordan and the autonomy authority." It added that "our people in Jordan will never forget Palestine and will never accept the curse of an alternative homeland or disagree as to whether they should have Jordanian or Palestinian citizenship." In conclusion, it said that the battle "is continuing against the occupation."

Authority Names Rafah Crossing Point Officials

JN0708095994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] An informed source at the Palestinian National Authority has said Major Nazmi Muhanna has been appointed director of the Rafah crossing point and Captain 'Ali al-Jamali as director of the Passports Department. Captain Salamah Salim was also appointed security officer and Lieutenant Samir al-Harun as administrative officer. The source added that the Rafah crossing point will be handed over to the Palestinians within 10 days.

PPP Official on PNA, Elections, Other Issues

JN0508172994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1455 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Interview with PPP Secretary General Bashir al-Barghuthi by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. Bashir al-Barghuthi, secretary general of the Palestinian People's Party [PPP], good evening.

[Al-Barghuthi] Good evening.

[Correspondent] You made statements the day before yesterday in which you said that there is no possibility of foiling the Oslo-Cairo agreements, and called for viewing issues realistically. Do these statements imply some participation by the Palestinian People's Party in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]?

[Al-Barghuthi] No, they do not imply anything. However, they give a realistic assessment of the new situation. First of all, I do not agree with the merging of the Oslo and Cairo agreements. I believe that there is a great distance between the Oslo agreement and the results of the Cairo agreement on the ground. I also would like to say that talking about foiling the Cairo, Oslo, or other agreements after an important and a main party in the national movement has committed itself to this agreement means an attempt to create a serious split in the Palestinian national movement, which is not in the interest of anyone. Therefore, I believe in dealing with this new situation and in looking for common denominators to amend this agreement in our favor, and to secure a mechanism for the Cairo agreement to enable us to develop it. Based on this, I believe in the Palestinian negotiator's insistence on an independent legislative council that enables all forces to participate in the elections. Participation in this council will possibly contribute to developing this agreement, whether by having the PNA refer to this council, or by urging it to oppose any measures related to the negative points in the Cairo agreement. I believe that this would constitute a mechanism that could provide an opportunity to get out of the impasse in which all sides are now involved. Secondly, I also believe that new Palestinian departments should be created for the issues that were excluded from the Cairo agreement, such as a department for Jerusalem, a department for the refugees, for the displaced, and another for the settlement issues. Some of these departments could be offered to the opposition, which would then take the responsibility for mobilization, enlightenment, and work in the name of the PLO in the occupied territories, and on the Arab and international levels, in order to keep these issues alive on the agenda of the international interest and the other international institutions. This would also help the PNA when the negotiations on the final status begin.

[Correspondent] If the Palestinian opposition parties remain idle, will this develop and improve the agreement?

[Al-Barghuthi] They are now negotiating on bases they themselves have chosen. We had wanted to participate in the negotiations, and we do not like adopting the role of a spectator. However, we cannot just watch the decision-making process and at the same time implement the decisions. It is either you participate in making and implementing the decisions or do not participate at all. This is not a spectator's position. You can go back to the minutes of the PLO Central Council's meeting, before and after this meeting. You will then find that we said that there must be a negotiation plan on which we agree. Regrettably, matters proceeded in the opposite direction. What is happening is that I am now being asked to implement decisions that I did not make. So, it is unjust and unfair to describe my current stand as being that of a spectator.

[Correspondent] The PNA is now discharging its duties on the ground. This requires all national efforts to be mobilized to support this authority.

[Al-Barghuthi] But not supporting this authority on the basis of the Cairo agreement. We have asked for the drawing of red lines. If this authority is willing, during the negotiations, to deem the issue of forming an independent legislative council as a red line that will not be violated and to set up these departments to follow the Palestinian national course that was excluded by the Cairo agreement, then we are ready.

[Correspondent] Will the [PPP] take part in the elections?

[Al-Barghuthi] If all of this is achieved, then it will.

[Correspondent] You have warned against dissolving the PLO in the PNA. What did you mean by that?

[Al-Barghuthi] I mean that such departments should be there so the PLO will pursue struggle for the Palestinian missions banned by the Cairo agreement during the next two years.

[Correspondent] Another question. In light of the Washington Declaration and King Husayn's overflying Jerusalem on 3 August, observers see a political signal here, how do you view this act?

[Al-Barghuthi] I think there is nothing new here. I was not surprised by any of this. Since the outset of negotiations, the Jordanians have said they want to negotiate to regain their territory in Ghawr al-Safi and north of al-Hammah and regain their water and such similar issues. I think they are proceeding on this course. Since we saw an engagement, then there is bound to be a wedding. The overflight is a natural consummation.

[Correspondent] But we are here talking about Jerusalem.

[Al-Barghuthi] Jerusalem is essentially an occupied territory to which Resolution 242 applies. I do not agree to.... [pauses] I do not care how others view Jerusalem. From a Palestinian perspective, I think of it as the capital of my homeland. It is also the spiritual, cultural, and economic capital. It is even a passageway. I deem it an essential part of the occupied territory to which Resolution 242 is applicable. I absolutely do not condone dividing the question of Jerusalem into parts.

[Correspondent] One last question. We heard today about the closure of AL-TALI'AH newspaper. Is that true?

[Al-Barghuthi] AL-TALI'AH was closed temporarily under a decision made by its editorial staff for purposes of reorganization. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Chairs PNA Meeting in Gaza

JN0708173394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] met in Gaza today. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the many urgent issues, the recent developments in the peace process, and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in light of the Alexandria meeting between President 'Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Authority Decides Elections To Be Held 'This Year'

TA0808044194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] The Palestinian Autonomous Authority has decided elections in the territories will be held this year, possibly in October. Members of the authority met for over five hours last night. They said the condition for holding the elections would be Israel's willingness to withdraw its troops from urban areas in the West Bank and Gaza. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian Authority, said the negotiations with Israel on the terms of the elections would begin next week.

Official on Plans for Gaza-Jericho Air Travel

JN0608185394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, minister of transportation and communications in the Palestinian National Authority, has told the Voice of Palestine that four Palestinian planes will begin air travels between the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area in November at the latest.

He added that two helicopters with 12 seats are waiting in al- 'Arish and that two other planes with 50 seats are also waiting in the airport of an Arab country. Al-Hajj Ahmad added that talks with donor countries are under way to finance the establishment of two airports in Gaza and Jericho.

Palestinian Radio Ends Broadcasts From Algeria

LD0708185794 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Brothers, we greet you from the Voice of Palestine, the voice of the Palestinian revolution, and begin our last transmission with a special program beginning with the Palestinian national anthem. [Palestinian national anthem]

Brothers; our great poet Mahmud Darwish says in one of his poems "A Greeting and a Kiss:" I have nothing else to say. Where can I begin and where canl I end? Indeed, where will we begin? Today, 7 August 1994, the curtain falls on the Voice of Palestinian revolution's transmission from the pleasant land of Algeria. How difficult are these moments in which we bid farewell to our listeners and all those who supported and helped us in transmitting the voice of the Palestinian truth for a quarter of a century from Algeria, so that it would go beyond the Arab countries to Europe, Africa and America, gaining a new friend and lover of justice and peace every day.

Yes, these are difficult moments because the road is still long; our mission has not yet ended and our aim of the complete return of Palestine has not been attained.

Brothers, if we go back 28 years, which is when the voice of the Palestinian revolution from Algeria began, we will find that the concern of our brothers in the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria continued to envelop and embrace the Palestinian cause and continues to do so, supporting the revolution, leadership and institutions.

As the family which worked in Voice of Palestine radio, we can not say goodbye to our listeners and this pleasant land without offering our most sincere thanks from the bottom of our hearts to all the Algerian brothers—president, government and people—for the utmost concern which they showed for the propagation of our just and legitimate cause. We would particularly like to thank our brothers the administrators, journalists and technicians in the Algerian national broadcasting enterprise for the services which they provided for us in order to make the voice of the Palestinian revolution heard.

Thanks to all of them and thanks to you, our loyal listeners, and to all those who shared from near or far in supporting and helping any of the symbols of the Palestinian revolution. We are not saying goodbye, only until we meet again. Palestinian broadcasting, God willing, will once more and forever be brought to you from inside the liberated homeland. May its connection with its listeners and admirers continue.

We express our best wishes to you from us. May God keep you and preserve you till we meet again.

IRNA Reports PLO Embassy Strike in Athens

LD0608081794 Tehran IRNA in English 0703 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Athens, Aug. 6, IRNA—The staff of the embassy of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is on strike since the past week as they have not received their salaries since the past year, a well-informed palestinian source told IRNA Friday [5 August].

"The condtion is very difficult. The staff has not received their salaries since one year now. They have gone on strike," he told IRNA speaking on condition of anonymity. Over 15 palestinians are employed in the Embassy situated just 300 metres from the Zionist embassy in the posh Palaio Psychico suburb of the Greek capital.

Beside financial problems the PLO is also facing a crisis of existence. Under the Oslo agreement signed between the Zionist state and the PLO six months earlier, the Palestinian organization has no future since the Palestine self-rule authority is now in charge in Gaza and Jericho.

The Palestinian source explained that under the agreement the PLO has no right to exercise foreign or defence policy. "The PLO is now finished and Yasir 'Arafat does not care about it," he said.

Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO political bureau in Tunis, was now trying to take up the organization's leadership but economic problems are so acute that he is not in a position to run the affairs.

PLO's economic woes began after the Iraqi-Kuwaiti war in 1991 when the oil-rich Arab states stopped financial help to Yasir 'Arafat for supporting Saddam Husayn.

The U.S. and some European countries promised 'Arafat over dlrs. 2 billion for signing the accord with the Zionist state, but hardly any money has flown to the Palestinian self-rule authority, PLO officials have complained.

Islamic Jihad Calls For Strike in Hebron

JN0608165694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] A general and comprehensive strike was observed in Hebron, its villages, and camps this morning in response to the call made by the Islamic Jihad Movement, which considers the 6th of every month a monthly anniversary for the intifadah.

Public traffic came to a standstill, commercial shops were closed, and workers did not report to work.

Confrontations broke out between youths and Israeli soldiers in the city yesterday.

TIPH Observers Complete Mandate, Leave Hebron

TA0808105294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The international observers stationed in Hebron since the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs have now left the town after completing their three-month mandate. The departure was made in a convoy of cars blowing their horns. But 10 members of the TIPH [Temporary International Presence in Hebron] forces are staying on in Hebron for a few days to complete administrative matters. [passage omitted]

Algeria

PLO's Qaddumi Signs Joint Accord

LD0608192894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, arrived in Algiers today on a two-day working visit. Qaddumi was welcomed on arrival at Houari Boumedienne international airport by Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, and Abu al'Izz, the ambassador of the state of Palestine to Algeria, .

Mr. Qaddumi made the following statement to reporters on the content of his visit to Algeria.

[Begin Qaddumi recording]The people of Algeria who made the Algerian revolution and the Palestinian people in their sacred land are two brothery peoples, continuously and permanently. They stand on the threshold of history, saying they sacrificed the lives of millions for the sake of their freedom and national independence. We are delighted to come to the land of victorious Algeria to meet our brothers, to exchange points of view with them, and to explore and bolster joint Arab work and solidarity. [end recording]

Regarding the prospects of Algerian-Palestinian cooperation Qaddumi said:

[Begin Qaddumi recording] Between the Palestinians and the Algerians there is not only cooperation and coordination, but also cohesion with the Algerian revolution. This cooperation is continuous in all spheres, and we are immensely eager to bolster this Palestinian-Algerian cohesion and economic cooperation. Before coming to Algeria, I held discussions with the Algerian ambassador in Tunis. He asked me about previous economic agreements, and I gave him copies. [end recording]

Algerian-Palestinian talks started this evening on the outskirts of Algiers. Private talks were held between Mohamed Salah Dembri and Faruq Qaddumi. These were followed by a working session of Algerian and Palestinian experts.

The signing of the constituent agreement of the Algerian-Palestinian joint committee is taking place as we speak.

Faruq Qaddumi is expected to be received tomorrow by the head of state, Liamine Zeroual.

Qaddumi Departs

LD0708172994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, left Algeria today at the end of a two-day working visit. [passage omitted]

Head of State Liamine Zeroual received Mr. Faruq Qaddumi today, and yesterday evening Mr. Qaddumi held talks with Mohamed Salah Dembri, which culminated in the signing of an agreement on setting up a joint Algerian-Palestinian committee.

EC Grants Aid for Agricultural Sector

LD0508201494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] The EC has given Algeria aid destined for the agricultural sector. The agreement was signed recently in Brussels. Karima Abed reports:

[Abed] Algeria recently signed an agreement with the European Community to boost the agricultural sector with a 30 million ECU [European Currency Unit] aid package, equivalent to $36 million. This agreement follows the decision made last October to implement the financial protocol between Algeria and the European Community. It is worth recalling that the housing sector received about $84 million in aid last September to enable Algeria to buy construction materials.

This new aid package is aimed essentially at developing the agricultural sector. The money will be used to purchase veterinary products, seeds, and agricultural equipment. The terms of the aid do not exclude the food industry and rural services sectors. The operation will be controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Prime Minister Sifi Presents Government Program

LD0808104694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1937 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Address by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi to the Transitional National Council in Algiers on 7 August—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; prayers and peace be upon the most honorable of the prophets.

Mr. Chairman; honorable ladies and gentlemen members of the National Transitional Council; lady and gentleman members of the government; ladies and gentlemen. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. It gives me pleasure to meet with you today, members of the esteemed Transitional National Council.

About four months ago, when I was summoned by the head of state, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, and asked to form the government of the transitional period, I agreed without hesitation and with full confidence to shoulder this national duty and this heavy burden. I am not totally ignorant of the fact that there are many difficulties and obstacles which will definitely obstruct my activities. I have taken into account, and I am still taking into account, the fact that when the homeland is in danger and irrespective of whether the enemy is from without or within, every Algerian worthy of being called an Algerian, and irrespective of the means that may be at his disposal, should respond to such an appeal. This I did.

The Algerians who are members of this government have been invited in the same circumstances to perform a difficult task which is subject to a time condition. They responded without being motivated by any partisan aspiration or any other interest, except to realize national concord with the least possible economic and social cost. They will carry out their duties without forgetting that they should take into account the legacy of the previous management, even if they were not responsible for that, and even if their duties do not entail passing judgment on that management, plus the fact that they have not the time to do so.

The government team's objective in the difficult circumstances the country is going through is only to serve the country. They have sought the help of God to do this, having faith in this homeland, its future, and the historic potentials of the people of Algeria to overcome trials and face up to challenges.

We do not believe the program we have prepared is a magic wand which will take Algeria out of the crisis besetting it, but it is an effort on our part to respond as best we can to our citizens' aspirations, despite all the real obstacles on the field. However, this program seems to us most suitable, because it is centered on the need for a break with past practices, and one of its basic constituents is the transition to a market economy. Likewise, the program reflects the financial commitments our country has made to overcome the economic crisis and revive the process of national development.

This program, as is the case with any program, will have value insofar as it is given substance in the deeds of the cadres and workers of this country, and by its dynamic forces, to whom we have made an open call for mobilization. We do not want to belong to any party or any ideology. Obviously, each of us carries within himself the outlines of a project for a society, but we have all committed ourselves to taking into consideration only the task entrusted to us, without submitting it to any political calculations. As officials, we adopt the inevitable economic options taken by our country, and we respect their principles.

Like all Algerians, who are interested in the destiny of their country and fear for the future of their people, we believe that our first priority is to stop the killing of Algerians by other Algerians. Algerians must overcome as soon as possible the spirit of partisanship, extremism, and violence; these have prevailed over wisdom and farsightedness and completely contradict the national interest and the spirit of brotherhood which enabled us to keep our national identity for centuries and which led to the start of the 1 November 1954 revolution, with all the significance of that revolution.

Peoples admired, and still do, the cohesion and patriotism which have always characterized Algeria. A certain king, who was full of astonishment and total admiration, commented to me that despite its ordeals, Algeria is still standing and still has credibility. A certain president stressed, with full conviction, that Algeria will quickly overcome these events, because it has a revolutionary people who will never submit to violence.

We stress and we reiterate the appeal to all Algerians, men and women, and to all the sons of this great Algerian people to stop the violence and to restore national concord. This does not exclude anybody except those who exclude themselves from their people by shedding the blood of the sons of the people.

Before the world and the peoples of east and west, we can find no justification—there is none, be it social, economic, political, or religious—for shedding the blood of innocent people with such a degree of savagery. The brave people of 1 November can only condemn these horrible acts.

Where will the person who kills his Muslim brother hide from Almighty God? Nobody, even a prophet, can change God's will. God Almighty said: Never should a believer deliberately kill a believer. The Almighty also said: If a man intentionally kills a believer, his punishment will be to be condemned to hell forever; the wrath and curse of God will be upon him, and a dreadful penalty is prepared for him. God has spoken the truth.

We remind the party leaders and their activists that their historical responsibility is extremely heavy at a time when we find Algeria exposed to this painful crisis; and we ask them very clearly: What is more important, your party or your country? Your ideology or your people? Your political discourse or the life of these youths who are mowed down by violent and indiscriminate death? You are demanding dialogue, so join the dialogue. You are demanding elections, so come and help us organize them. You want power, so come and ask for it from the people in a democratic way and through the ballot box in an atmosphere where peace, harmony, and stability prevail.

There is not, and cannot be, any political choice without elections. Many things have changed. Much blood has been shed. There is no force or violence that can be imposed on the people. History bears witness to that, and the future will confirm it. Those who are speaking in the name of Islam have greater responsibility in condemning all those who, in their name, are killing women and children. How can they perform their prayers and face God Almighty without having a guilty conscience? It is not enough to hide our faces, because the crime is being committed against an entire people; it has but one name: Terrorism. Muslims should therefore condemn violence and terrorism and should fight both by every means.

Mr. Chairman; honorable ladies and gentlemen members of the Transitional National Council; lady and gentleman members of the government; ladies and gentlemen; our country, despite all tribulations, is still on its feet. There are men and women who are still supporting it so that it will remain on its feet, and most of the time they pay the price for that in terms of their own lives and the lives of their families. There are cadres, workers, government officials, and members of the security forces who are steadfast at their places of work despite the pressures they encounter. There are journalists, intellectuals, artists, and citizens who back their homeland and entertain the hope and conviction to see a strong and prosperous Algeria. I would like to praise their efforts, and solemnly bow my head before the souls of those who paid with their lives the price of their love for this homeland.

Your presence today at this esteemed venue is a living symbol of Algeria's resistance to the pressures of the enemies within and without. It is also particularly a support and encouragement for all members of the government to continue their tasks with bravery, because they know that by this they are not the only ones who are working so that Algeria can proceed with the least possible cost through this vital and historic transitional phase.

Mr. Chairman; esteemed ladies and gentlemen members of the Transitional National Council; lady and gentleman members of the government; ladies and gentlemen. God Almighty has given us a homeland rich in its human and natural resources. Contrary to what has often been said, this homeland has achieved many things since it regained its independence, such as schools, universities, hospitals, dams, highways, water networks, lighting, factories, etc. We praise God that there are no Algerians dying of hunger and that our children attend school. We also praise Him that we—in comparison with several countries similar to ours—have realized many things and in a better way. Our people are valiant and steadfast. Foreign countries acknowledge this and realize fully that our people have the means of success. Because we have such means I am confident of our ability to revive our national economy and our development projects, and at the same time to maintain national concord and social fairness.

The program being presented to you today is the outcome of a realistic field diagnosis without any flattery, and the result of a consultation with all those who will be charged with its implementation. The aims of the program have been fixed in the middle term, and we will try—with the assistance of Almighty God—to implement most of it during the period fixed for us.

A. At the level of restoring the self-respect of state employment and its consolidation: Before anything else, we should address the security problem, which constitutes one of the current priorities of the state, by way of strengthening the legislative measures for combating terrorism and sabotage; strengthening the organization, methods, and means of intervention by the departments charged with security issues; and development of cooperation and exchange of international assistance in the field of combating terrorism and sabotage.

Following this, and parallel with it, we will carry out operations of an economic and social nature for the benefit of the citizens in order to combat at the source the causes of the growth of this terrorism and the other diseases of society. We will work for the restoration of self-respect in public service by improving the services offered to the citizen and by always remaining at the citizen's disposal. Within this framework, we will review all legislative statutes which organize our local communities, giving utmost attention to the ethics of public administration and the legal system pertaining to officials in public administration. The state's credibility cannot be restored within a specific time unless it is by way of reinforcing the legal relationship between the citizen and his administration through total openness regarding public administration.

B. At the level of reforming the national economy: With regard to the Algerian economy, the aim is to replace the state of stagnation with a return to growth, so that the economy can resume generating jobs, and thus decrease unemployment, the number one social malady. Therefore, it is essential to restore the internal and external financial balances so that local prices can stabilize and create incentives for investment and development. The path toward rehabilitation of the national economy includes the following:

- —First, a strict policy of budget administration which gradually strikes a balance between the state's revenues and expenditures;
- —Second, a stricter financial and monetary policy;
- —Third, the freeing of foreign trade. In this connection the activity of the government will basically be devoted to the implementation of a series of legislative and organizational measures which will enable us to end any monopoly and bureaucratic management of foreign trade. This freedom will be bolstered by a strategy of gradual development of exports, except fuels.
- —Fourth, reformation of the currency exchange policy. The government has decided to guarantee the exchange rate—gradually and in stages, but in a comparatively short time—by way of market influences. The Bank of Algeria will, whenever possible, allow the setting up of exchange bureaus. We believe that, given our volume of currency reserves and the variety of our exports, we can better control our foreign debt and ensure the competitiveness of our national economy by bringing the dinar toward full convertibility, once its commercial convertibility is achieved as a first stage.
- —Fifth, reforming the prices system. The government has decided to accelerate the freeing and correcting of internal prices by raising the prices of subsidized products, continuing to subsidize semolina, flour, and milk. However, the aim in the medium term is to abolish all comprehensive subsidies.

In order to support this program, the government intends to issue a law on competition in place of the obligation to declare prices at production level, and to oblige people to make them public.

C. At the level of consolidating market economy rules: Because the measures to rehabilitate the economy are not in themselves sufficient to restore growth, it is necessary, from this year, to deepen and organize the structural reform program. The aim of this is to renew and reorient the state's role in its organizational and activity-related functions.

These reforms will affect the following:

1. Industrial restructuring, the revision of laws on the autonomy of enterprises and the statutes of 1988. The purpose of this is to consolidate the autonomy of public economic enterprises and to encourage the movement of funds and partnership in all its forms, so as to achieve the measurable goal of using all available production capacity to produce quality goods which are able to compete.

2. Restructuring and modernization of the banking and financial sector. We aim in this framework to improve and consolidate the banking network. To do this, we will encourage competition by allowing national and foreign private capital to participate in setting up efficient banking and financial enterprises.

3. Promotion of national and foreign private investments. The government is determined to include, as soon as possible, application statutes in the legislative decree covering the promotion of investments, particularly the statutes regulating the agency for promoting and insuring investments.

4. Modernization of tax and customs administration by introducing new methods of management and control, by training clerks, and by introducing information technology.

5. Commercial organization and competition. At this level, it is necessary to enhance the growth of competition in the internal market. The government will adopt a number of measures at the legislative and organizational levels with the aim of freeing and encouraging the spirit of invention and of eliminating monopolies and practices opposed to competition. In this framework, a competition council will be set up to protect and control competition.

6. Redefinition of real estate policy. This aims at removing the legal obstructions confronting the possession of real estate. It will be the subject of a law which responds not only to the people's concerns about housing, but also to the needs of agriculture and investment.

D. At the level of economic revival: The sectors of economic activity targeted by the government are those which entail important sources of production and which need to respond to investment efforts quickly, while also addressing social problems, such as housing, employment, or providing food supplies. These sectors are: fuels, construction and public works, irrigation and major works, agriculture, small and medium establishments, and tourism. This does not mean that the remaining sectors will be neglected. In these sectors we should put an end to the deterioration they have been experiencing for years and embark on far-reaching reforms. This applies to the following sectors: education and training, health, transport and telecommunications, culture and contacts.

E. At the level of national solidarity and social justice: In the sphere of national solidarity, the government program constitutes a tangible undertaking by the government to the more deprived groups of society—children, young people, the family, and those living in difficulties. The government intends to mold its social activity to be increasingly compatible with the new data of the national economy which will result from the plan of restructuring the economy.

This program of action is basically a multisector program and is open to all social partners. It aims to prepare and implement coordinated and agreed upon measures and plans:

First: To participate in a just distribution of the social cost of restructuring the economy and in organizing subsidies for the benefit of deprived social factions.

Second: To encourage, foster, and evaluate the mobilization of available social capabilities and resources, particularly by creating conditions conducive to the development of solidarity activities within the group movement.

Third: To bolster and develop action in favor of the social, economic, and cultural rights of citizens who encounter difficulties, and to fight marginalization, social and economic neglect, and social diseases.

Fourth: To ensure that the rule of law is a constant reality in which human rights are protected at all levels.

Fifth: To restore self-respect to the values of mutual aid and solidarity, which constitute the wealth of our social, cultural, and civilized riches, and are considered to be one of the constants of our history.

On the other hand, the government program in the sphere of solidarity provides special care for:

- 1. The educational, vocational, and cultural development of children and young people.
- 2. Reviving the process of fighting illiteracy, especially among women and illiterate workers.
- 3. Protecting the integrity of the family, because it is the basic cell of society and the preferred educational entity.
- 4. Supporting families who are victims of terrorism.

Finally, this program should depend on the following:

- First: Creating establishments for consultation and practical coordination, and developing suitable legislative and organizational cadres.

- Second: Reducing administrative bureaucratic obstacles and promoting practical ways of encouraging contacts and initiatives.
- Third: Embarking on studies and establishing an informative media and educational policy through national and social solidarity.

In brief, these are the major points of this program, which I have the honor of submitting to you. The situation during the past four months has prompted us to embark as a matter of urgency on several of the courses of action which are listed in this program, for instance, supplying our productive units with raw materials and spare parts, and supplying the national market with medicines, construction materials, and foodstuffs. During the visits they pay to various parts of the country, ministers are entrusted with the duty of explaining the aims of the transitional period to local official and to citizens.

The necessary visits abroad by the head of government are aimed at establishing links with our major partners in order to outline the endeavors being made by our country's authorities in order to quickly restore Algeria's stability in the social, economic, and political spheres. These aims and this endeavor have been determined by the need to enhance the national solidarity which you yourselves created.

Mr. Chairman, honorable ladies and gentlemen members of the Transitional National Council, lady and gentleman members of the government, ladies and gentlemen, the government's final aim is to restore the security, political, social, and economic conditions which will enable us to quickly return to the path of elections. Open dialogue should clarify for us, among other things, the types and methods of elections we should prepare. Our efforts will be meaningless if dialogue and consultation do not succeed in giving our people and homeland another chance to emerge from this crisis. On our part, we are optimistic and confident. We remain convinced that matters will be once again restored to normality.

Before I conclude, allow me to address our youth and say to them: You will inherit this country. You have no country other than this in which you can live. You are among the first people being called upon to save this country. Therefore your responsibility today is great. You have to resist all those who are working to bury your country alive. In order to do this, you—all young people—constitute the government's main concern; you are the government's main center of interest. We all have to stand firmly and with determination against anything which may infringe upon the sovereignty, unity, and stability of the country, the security of its citizens, or the safety of the homeland.

May God assist us in our desire to do good! May He remove from our homeland the demons of sedition and sabotage! Glory and immortality for our righteous martyrs! Long live Algeria! Peace and God's mercy be upon you! [applause]

State Radio Comments on Government Program

LD0708161394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] The Sifi government program includes several top priority items seen as closely interrelated and integral to the resolution of the crisis afflicting the country. Fodil Saadeddine reports:

[Saadeddine] The Sifi government program, which regards the continuity of the state as a top priority, has been defined by the following main points: managing the security problem; restoring the prestige of public services; and improving public administration. The government program stresses the need for determination to combat violence and terrorism within the framework of the country's laws. The protection of the people's safety and their property also tops the government's concerns, and as a result, the legislative apparatus has been reinforced and more antiterrorist measures have been taken.

Under these circumstances, the Sifi government is still endeavouring to bolster international cooperation in this field. To make this effort more effective, it will have to tackle the economic, social, and political issues in accordance with the current situation. In this respect, the government is also endeavoring to revive the dialogue with all partners with a view to entrenching once and for all the traditions of democratic practices and a calm national debate.

In order to ensure the success of this program, the government intends to adopt measures based on a continuous presence on the ground, direct contact with the public, and permanent consultation with social and economic partners, in addition to a continuous follow-up of the work achieved.

In order to guarantee a greater efficiency in the economic field, the government program intends to adopt a firm policy in the management of the budget, with a view to ensuring a balance between revenues and expenditures. Moreover, the Sifi government intends to continue the structural reforms of the economy and adopt a flexible sectorial strategy which will provide the suitable conditions for the revival of the national economy. The government program also provides conditions to encourage investments by liberating external trade from all monopolies and laying down the rules and the legal tools for commercial competition. Finally, the Sifi government calls for a sharing of the burdens of the social impact [as heard] resulting from the economic reforms.

New Political Dialogue Initiatives Reported

LD0508141294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Excerpts] A new round of dialogue is expected later on, the date of which has not been fixed yet. However it is believed that it will take place in the next two weeks. [passage omitted]

It transpires from information given by well-informed sources at the presidency that in addition to the bases of dialogue set in advance, invitations will be addressed to the parties which did not attend the national concord conference held last January. [passage omitted recalling invitations to the parties, Zeroual's speech of 4 July 1994, and recent violence]

According to some well-informed sources, invitations will be addressed to parties which are not represented at the moment in the Transitional National Council, and which did not attend the national conference. These are: the National Liberation Front [FLN], the Socialist Forces' Front [FFS], the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], the Islamic Ennahda movement, and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria. It is worth mentioning here that a number of sources predict the possibility that these parties will join the Transitional National Council [TNC] as 22 seats remain vacant. Various sources do not rule out the possibility that personalities from the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] will be represented outside the framework of this party which is legally banned at the moment.

If some kind of idleness has transpired in political life, it seems that the political parties which are described as active do not reject dialogue and are moving toward it. This has transpired through the statements of their leaders for a few months which have been characterized by some moderation. There is an inclination toward the condemnation of terrorism although this has not up to now reached the degree of being sufficiently open.

In the framework of this internal move, if one can say so, political parties try to propose various formulas for reviving political life. The FFS proposes a new national conference, the FLN suggests a meeting between the regime and the active parties, while the RCD says that it does not have a pre-set idea. The Islamic Society Movement [HAMAS], which is represented in the TNC, wants to perform the role of mediator between the regime and personalities from the banned FIS.

These moves and statements, although shy, are the beginning of the evidence that the most sound and peaceful forces have started to understand, although this understanding has been slow, that the time factor is not in Algeria's favor if the situation remains as it is. Time has thus come for the political forces, regardless of their orientations, to abandon the policy of entrenching themselves in their opinion and give up their adherence to permanent rejection of all proposals for dialogue. The thing which is strange is that this rejection seems to emanate from the fact that invitation to dialogue comes from the regime, and it is as if the parties want a dialogue without anybody directing the dialogue. This is unreasonable, as the absence of a director of the dialogue would lead to chaos and other things that are inappropriate to mention here.

The conclusion is that public opinion must put pressure on all parties and encourage them to become fully convinced of the need for dialogue so that the will of the regime and that of the opposition will meet in this dialogue. This is the duty of every citizen regardless of his status or level. [passage omitted] This is another suitable opportunity and nobody has the right to let it go to waste. People are watching, and the parties should prove their maturity and show that they are parties which deserve their names.

FIS Leader on Assassination Operations

LD0608201294 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Interview with senior FIS leader Anwar Haddam by Jean-Marc Illouz in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Jean-Marc Illouz] This is Anwar Haddam in Washington this morning. He is facing a portrait of Abassi Madani, founding father of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], who was jailed by the Algerian authorities. Mr. Haddam, a former nuclear physics professor, is deputy for Tlemcen. He said he was elected in the 1991 elections which were cancelled. He stresses that he still belongs to the FIS and that he obeys its underground command in Algeria. He says he is at war with the Algerian Government but claims, I quote, a political, but not a military role. Anwar Haddam lives legally in the United States. We asked him if he supported or condemned the assassinations:

[Anwar Haddam, identified by caption as FIS representative in the United States] We condemn on principle all attacks against those who are not involved, who are not leading, or who are not directly involved in the operations of the special forces against the Algerian people, whether they are Algerians or foreigners.

[Illouz] Do you condemn or support the recent assassination of French nationals?

[Haddam] We have no details about this incident, and we are awaiting more details from the French and the Algerian authorities concerning the exact nature of the mission of these French nationals.

[Illouz] Are you at war not only with Algeria, but also with France?

[Haddam] No. First, it is the government, the so-called Algerian Government, which declared war upon the Algerian people by halting the electoral process. It is said that certain French political circles want to involve

France in this crisis in an attempt to internationalize the Algerian issue. We have nothing against the French people. All we want is to live freely and freely decide our political system.

[Illouz] French Interior Minister Pasqua is accusing you of being an accomplice of the terrorists.

[Haddam] I wonder if he fully understands the impact of such remarks, which I find irresponsible. If he calls terrorists those who were democratically elected in Algeria yesterday, with whom will he talk tomorrow? [end recording]

Comments on Unity, U.S. Ties

JN0608110194 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 22 Jul 94 pp 18-20

[Interview with senior FIS leader Anwar Haddam by Mufid 'Abd-al-Rahim in Washington; date not given]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Rahim] Your group ,"the Islamic Salvation Front" [FIS], has now coalesced with various Islamic factions to form "the United Islamic Group." What's the idea of the move, given that you are perceived outside Algeria, in particular by the United States, as being relatively moderate, which makes its possible for the West to open a dialogue with you and to help you attain a designated share of power in Algeria?

[Haddam] That's not an accurate description of the picture. What happened was the merger of the mujahidin under a single banner. Following the 1992 military coup, the regime would have liked us to confront it within the framework of the FIS, which is nothing more than a political party. We were not ready for a military face-off with the regime. The FIS undertook to unite the jihad factions under a single banner, which is what its leadership in Algeria—the National Executive Bureau—did. It is the one in charge of issuing the statements signed by Abdelrazzak Rajjam, along with Shaykhs Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhaj before they were jailed.

With the eruption of trouble, there was a tendency to start an Islamic salvation army that would have brought together all these jihad efforts, especially against the background of a real misunderstanding developing between the armed Islamic group and the the Islamic state movement. However, once all these problems had been sorted out, all of them returned to the fold of the original group, our movement, to complete the unification of the jihad factions.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Are you saying that all the Islamic factions in Algeria are now grouped under the name "the Armed Islamic Group", although some of them deny this?

[Haddam] All the fighting mujahid elements are now united under a single banner, but none of the parties has been submerged in the whole.

['Abd-al-Rahim] But does this not mean that the FIS and the Islamic state movement will somehow vanish, when united within the Unified Islamic Group? Some papers started to refer to your movement as the dissolved movement?

[Haddam] No. This is what we want to emphasize. Those who united are the mujahidin who used to fight within the FIS and not the front itself. The FIS embodies a concept and comprises men chosen by the Algerian people. The FIS is still active as a political grouping.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Then the political wing and your activities abroad will continue and will not be affected by the unity efforts?

[Haddam] Yes, as of now. However, this is somewhat premature. Things will soon materialize. We rallied around the FIS not for its name but because of the cause it seeks to protect. However, when the regime closed all the doors to the peaceful achievement of this, the stage was set for jihad and fighting.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Then your are saying that you feel that dialogue with the government in Algeria is now fruitless and you must resort to armed action?

[Haddam] The current regime rejects any peaceful solution. The mass murder crimes committed in March and April, and even more recently, confirm that. On one night alone on 3 June, 44 people, including a 16-year-old child, were killed in al-Kalitos. On 6 June, 32 people were killed in al-Akhdariyah [last two placenames as transliterated]. These massacres made the political situation in Algeria insecure. Anyone who wanted to move in the name of Islam was attacked by the regime. Therefore, it is the regime that shut the door to dialogue.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Then as far as you are concerned, the door to dialogue is now closed, and the only option left is what you consider a legitimate military struggle against the government?

[Haddam] As far as our brothers in the FIS' home command, all doors to dialogue were closed and they had to halt political actions inside Algeria and work within the framework of the jihad scheme. But we, as a parliamentary mission for the FIS working abroad, and authorized by the FIS to act on its behalf, we continue to solicit world opinion and the political circles in the world. We believe it is not too late. We still believe that if peaceful political tools to achieve our cause are available, then we cannot ignore political dialogue. As an FIS parliamentary mission, therefore, we are still working in the political field.

['Abd-al-Rahim] How is this unification going to affect your action in Algeria? Does it herald escalated armed action against government institutions and foreigners? Are attacks on foreigners a sign of this escalation?

[Haddam] No, not the foreigners. We are not responsible for murdering foreigners. But, of course, there will be a stepping up of our operations against the regime because these are now being directed by a single leadership. However, our factions have not joined in an alliance, as happened in Afghanistan. We are uniting under the command of Abi-Abdallah Ahmed [name as transliterated]. This means intensified struggle with a view to toppling the military regime as quickly as possible.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Have you seen in that short period of time—some two months—any positive result for the intensification of military actions inside Algeria after the unification?

[Haddam] This is not easy to tell. What is happening now in Algeria is similar to what happened in our country in the 1950's when the Algerians were pioneers in the causes of liberation. We are now pioneers in a new cause: The people's right to choose. We are a threat to the status quo imposed by the colonialist regimes. Therefore, France is taking a hostile position against us. The unification we achieved dealt a severe blow to the regime, which gambled on fragmenting the mujahidin.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Did you hold any regional contacts before reaching that formula to unify your military factions, say with Islamic groups in nearby Arab states?

[Haddam] We believe those directly involved with the Algerian case are better informed about it. This does not mean we underestimate our brothers abroad. We are open to any advice. But our recent decision was taken with guidance from God only.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Did you hold any international contacts before declaring this movement of yours?

[Haddam] In fact, we warned the political quarters with which we have contacts that what is happening in Algeria is very serious. We told them that we had tried all peaceful means but the regime is leading the country to an even worse situation with its double language. We, therefore, had to resort to that united group. I have noted, in statements I made to Western media, such as the French paper LIBERATION, that 80 percent of the Algerian mujahidin are now united. We, in effect, were warning these quarters that we will have to halt political action inside Algeria and the dialogue with the regime, given the murders and suppression carried out against anybody relating to Islam. We also told them that the initial results of our action will be to reveal the crimes the regime was committing and then blaming on the armed Islamic group. The regime was directing all blame against the group because it knew it was the strongest.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Aside from your statements to Western media, have you had any specific contacts with political circles in Germany, Britain, Italy, and the United States, where you spend much of your time as a representative of the FIS?

[Haddam] We held contacts with these circles and discussed this issue with them. I will not go into details. All that I can say is that we told them that we believe we have the right to defend ourselves, and that the FIS, which the Algerian people chose, has the right to unify the mujahidin under one banner.

['Abd-al-Rahim] How did these circles' reply to your talk about unifying the Islamic groups and escalating military action inside Algeria?

[Haddam] It is now their duty to talk about this issue.

['Abd-al-Rahim] In other words, did they support this step, or did they warn against its consequences, because this might label the FIS as more extremist at a time when some people are gambling that the FIS is more moderate than other Algerian groups?

[Haddam] Frankly speaking, we talked to them about this issue. Naturally, their positions are not unified. Some of them have accurate information and know that the charges of terrorism, extremism, and intransigence are false charges employed by the regimes. They also know that we have a just cause. Others take a superficial look at matters, while some others actually support the existing regime, particularly France, which wants all of north Africa to be like its own gulf of oil, gas, and other resources. Naturally, we reject this and consider jihad in Algeria as legitimate jihad, subject to religious rules. Our mujahidin are not extremists or terrorists, and our objective is to save Algeria from this clique that is violating both divine and earthly laws.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Putting the United States aside now, what European countries understand your positions?

[Haddam] I prefer not to discuss the details of our relations openly. I prefer to keep these details between us and those whom we contact.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Given your status in the United States, and the fact that you must have briefed the U.S. officials, whether in the administration or Congress, about the details of this unification and its implications, what was the U.S. position in this regard?

[Haddam] We do not yet have an official reply from the Americans we contacted.

['Abd-al-Rahim] In your unofficial contacts, did you feel that the Americans support this approach in general, or did they advise you not to go forward, as they have future expectations about what will happen in Algeria?

[Haddam] In fact, the Americans are now asked to study the situation in Algeria in a more accurate manner. Without looking as if I am interfering in U.S. foreign policy, the Americans need to be more precise in assessing things. We tell them that they may miss an opportunity because the regional peoples are eager to open good channels of contact and relations with the United States, especially in view of the historic factors and the grudge harbored by some European circles, such as France, against the region. Naturally, the peoples are eager to establish relations. However, there are problems with the Americans because, after the fall of the Soviet

Union, they are in the process of creating a new world order. Thus, the matter is not easy or simple if we take into account the Americans' domestic or foreign problems. However, in this country, we believe that, in this regard, the United States is more prepared for discussion and dialogue than some European circles.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Those who have been monitoring U.S. stands over the past three months note that there is a sympathetic trend toward your movement. With your permission, I will relate to you some of these stands: U.S. State Department statements which conflict with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe's statements that your front is a terrorist organization; statements by National Security Adviser Anthony Lake and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher; then, Clinton's statement the month before last, and his statements in Italy this month. All of these statements are positive statements in your viewpoint. Are they not so?

[Haddam] But, they still have to recognize the people's right to self-defense and admit that the battle was imposed on us and that we were forced to fight after we have exhausted all peaceful means. Frankly speaking, they have not been able to assimilate this, as of yet.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Is there a chance the United States will one day adopt a stand supportive of your use of weapons against the Algerian Government?

[Haddam] The trouble is that Washington makes no distinction between the oppressor and the aggrieved. This is not wise from the political point of view. The United States is bending over backwards to reinstate the elected political authority in Haiti. In Algeria, Washington does not recognize the leadership that won the elections. It is doing political and economic business with the incumbent regime, and it backs the International Monetary Fund's program to prop it up. This, despite the objections that we, as the popularly elected authority, raised with the Americans. The United States continues to interfere in our army's affairs. It is training a new command for the Algerian Army.

['Abd-al-Rahim] The U.S. Congress recently curtailed the security cooperation program with Algeria. The program, anyway, is modest compared with such programs with other Third World countries, including Arab states?

[Haddam] That's what they say. With all respect, the Americans are preparing a new command for the Algerian military, and toward that end are training officers. Such a program is not particularly costly; they can bypass Congress and secure funding for it from sources other than American taxpayers, which should be approved by Congress.

['Abd-al-Rahim] If such information is accurate, where do these training operations take place?

[Haddam] I do not wish to speak about the details of such an issue. Let them speak about it. But, I can say that the U.S. Senate discussed this issue at a session it held on 16 June of this year.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Some say that Washington sponsors contacts that Algerian officials are holding with you in the United states. How true are these reports?

[Haddam] There has been too many reports in the press about this based on sources close to the FIS. The parliamentary mission, empowered by the FIS national bureau, is the only party that is authorized to speak on behalf of the FIS. If there were any contacts, or any statements were issued without being signed by the parliamentary mission, then we are not responsible for them. In view of the importance of such matters, our policy is not to discuss such contacts, because there are people within and outside the regime who try to maintain the status quo in Algeria and try to maintain the barrier between us and the military in Algeria. Therefore, I neither confirm nor deny the existence of such contacts.

['Abd-al-Rahim] According to your private information, what is your assessment of the outcome of Algerian Foreign Minister Dembri's visit to Washington last month and his talks with the U.S. Administration and Congressmen? Statements by Dembri's aides indicated the visit was remarkably successful.

[Haddam] I will surprise you by saying we were pleased with his visit because he revealed the truth in Algeria. This is because he exaggerated the achievements resulting from his visit, which prompted the U.S. Administration to refute what he said. He stated that this administration unconditionally supports and backs the Algerian regime and that the situation is calm in Algeria. This prompted the U.S. Administration to rectify his statements on full U.S. support for the authorities. The Americans have their own ways to learn about the real situation in Algeria.

In fact, we are not interested in whether Dembri's visit succeeded or failed. All that we want to say is that jihad in Algeria relies on God alone. The political contacts we hold aim to establish future relations with Western states after establishing an Islamic state in Algeria. This is because we believe it is possible to have peaceful coexistence between such a state and the West. We are also ready for any confrontation if necessary.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Hence, you are reassuring Western circles with which you are holding a dialogue that you are ready to establish relations of good neighborliness and cordial ties with Western states in the future.

[Haddam] Yes. We believe in this matter.

['Abd-al-Rahim] However, some people in the West still fear the establishment of an Islamic state and believe that what you are saying now is only a tactic designed to take power?

[Haddam] Part of this talk has objective reasons, and the other part is based on delusions, prior assumptions, and prior negative Western experience with Islamic regimes. However, we should all reconsider our international relations, based on the principle that each of us should acknowledge the other's right to choose the authority that will represent him, choose his way of life, and respect the recognized international laws such as human rights, democracy, and so on.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Do you feel that the U.S. Administration will acknowledge the Algerians' right to self-determination? In other words, will this administration recognize you as legitimate elected representatives in Algeria?

[Haddam] The Americans actually adapt much to facts on the ground, and they have much flexibility. They are also aware that an Islamic state will be established in Algeria, God willing, whether others like it or not. What is required is how to deal with such a state. Some states have begun to show hostility to our people, such as those who are supporting the existing regime through economic relations and trade and political deals. Examples of these states are France and Italy. Others are showing a conservative attitude, or are at least making secret relations, such as the United States.

Kebir: Foreigners' Safety Not Guaranteed

BR0508121094 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 5 Aug 94 p 14

[Interview with FIS spokesman Rabah Kebir by Gian Micalessin in Aachen; date not given: "'But Italy is on the Right Track'"—first paragraph is IL GIORNALE introduction]

[Text] After the killing of five Frenchmen in Algiers, even Aachen, an ancient and peaceful German town located between the Belgian border and Cologne, could become too tight for Rabah Kebir: He is 38 years old, a former university professor and imam at the Cologne mosque. Dr. Rabah Kebir modestly defines himself as being the spokesman of the "Islamic Salvation Front" [FIS] in Europe. Some consider him rather to be the exiled leader of Algerian fundamentalism. This is no coincidence. Paris has officially asked Germany to take steps against him. Kebir, who sought refuge in Germany in 1992—immediately after the military coup when the elections won by the FIS were cancelled and the leaders of the movement arrested—does not appear to be very concerned. "As soon as I arrived here I ended up in prison for three months; this could happen again but it would not change anything. Our leaders have been imprisoned in Algeria for two years but that has not stopped the revolt." Kebir refuses to comment on the attack in Algiers, but points his finger at French politics. "Paris is paying the consequences of its decisions. By supporting a corrupt government which has lost its legitimacy, France has continued its old colonial policies. But Paris is not satisfied with the way things are going. They say they support the government, but in fact they are actually seeking an alternative. The problem is that there is no way out. The only real, genuine alternative is what the people have chosen, i.e. the FIS.

[Micalessin] Do these accusations also apply to Italy and other Western countries?

[Kebir] Two years ago the West witnessed the death of democracy without moving a finger and putting blind faith in the promises made by the government, which ensured the Islamic revolution's defeat by wiping out civil rights and election results. But now many nations like Italy, the United States, and Spain, realize that the promises were in vain. The truth is that the government is losing consensus before the eyes of all, the guerrillas are becoming stronger, and foreign investments are increasingly at risk. The regime will fall within a year. Many countries understand this and are reviewing their policies.

[Micalessin] So how do you judge Italy's position?

[Kebir] Italy has taken up a courageous position. Your foreign minister recently acknowledged the fact that suspending the election process in Algeria was unacceptable. This is very important because hitherto nobody in Rome had ever stated this officially.

[Micalessin] Do you think that the Italian Government is ready to establish relations with you?

[Kebir] There have been contacts and I know that there will be more in the future, but don't ask me more because I cannot tell you.

[Micalessin] What about the seven sailors killed at Djendjen...

[Kebir] I sent a letter of sympathy immediately after the killing. The FIS has always stated that it is against attacks and violence against foreign workers. We want to pressure foreign governments into isolating the Algiers regime, but we have never encouraged killings or violence. But not all the armed groups follow the FIS's policy.

[Micalessin] So what is your position on foreign workers?

[Kebir] We have nothing against them, but foreign workers must understand that their work is what makes the regime's economy spin. If investments were to be withdrawn, the government would fall within a few months. Workers in Algeria must realize that nobody can guarantee their safety. There are armed groups operating beyond our control, there are death squads, there is a revolution underway.

[Micalessin] Who killed the Italians?

[Kebir] I do not know but I think that government secret service agents penetrated an Islamic militant group and acted during the G7 meeting to discredit the armed groups linked to the FIS.

[Micalessin] You are accused of being a terrorist movement...

[Kebir] The government said the same during the election campaign, then it was discovered that the Front was the group with the largest number of intellectuals as candidates, and we won the 1988 and 1991 elections. Do you think a terrorist group would have had intellectuals run, that we would have gained such consensus if we were terrorists? Look at what the regime's representatives did. They invalidated the elections and threw our leaders into prison; they ransack the militants' houses daily, they arrest them without a warrant and bomb the cities where the Islamic revolution is gathering pace. So are the real terrorists we or the government?

[Micalessin] Are you receiving aid from Iran and Sudan?

[Kebir] That is what the propaganda from Algiers claims because it knows that public opinion in the West is very frightened at the thought of an Islamic republic along the lines of the ones in Tehran or Sudan. But we will not adopt others' models, we are fighting for a republic based on freedom of expression, the rights of man, the separation of powers, and free elections. In our state nobody would have the right to invalidate elections just to remain in power. But that is what is happening under the current regime.

[Micalessin] How do you fund your revolt?

[Kebir] Our movement is poor but highly respected. We have no great funders, but we enjoy the trust of the people. Most of the Algerians support us as they can and that is enough for us.

[Micalessin] Is there still room for talks with the government?

[Kebir] In theory we are still not ready for negotiations, but our eyes are opened daily more and more to the government's lack of seriousness. How can we trust those who say they want to talk but send aircraft to bomb the villages, have special forces ransack them, and kill our militants on the spot?

GIA Threatens To Act Against Students, Teachers

NC0608132194 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, Aug 6 (AFP)—Algeria's hardline fundamentalist group, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) threatened Saturday to take "dissuasive" measures against any student or teacher who continues to frequent Algeria's schools and universities.

The GIA claimed responsibility for Wednesday's murder of five Frenchmen in Algiers which observers noted could have been the result of a continuing struggle between leaders of rival armed Islamic factions.

According to a GIA statement published by the Arab daily AL- HAYAT, "any student," "teacher," or "secondary school or university director" who continues to frequent Algeria's schools and universities "will be subjected to dissuasive punishment...according to the shari'ah law," inspired by the Koran.

"According to the shari'ah, one is not allowed to work in establishments which belong to governments or their allies," notably in education where the curriculum "is contrary to the rules of Islam," the GIA said.

"The school or university which remains open will be the target of a fire or an explosion until all obey the GIA's order," the statement said.

The fact that "educational establishments stay open under these circumstances will mean that they ignore the bloodshed by the fighters and martyrs," the text continues in a reference to those Islamists who have died in their four-year armed struggle against the government.

The statement said that those who "continue their studies (in these establishments) are helping the tyrant (the government) to ensure stability and thereby are not accomplishing the jihad (holy war)" against the regime.

AL-HAYAT said the statement was signed by the GIA leader, Abou Abd Ahmed.

On October 24, the GIA took three French consular officers hostage and released them a week later with a message giving foreigners a month to leave the country or run the risk of being killed.

Meanwhile, in France reliable sources said an imam would be detained Saturday and taken to former barracks at Folembray where 16 Islamic militants are being held after being rounded up Thursday and Friday by police. The imam, Omar Saker, was caught in possession of pro-Islamic tracts in Arabic during a routine car check.

The 16, who are technically under house arrest (which in France means any house appointed by the authorities) issued a statement Saturday saying that their house arrest "has been illegally transformed into detention." The 16 are to be deported as soon as another country can be found to take them.

Group Threatens Reprisals for French Arrests

NC0608135794 Paris AFP in English 1339 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Algiers, Aug 6 (AFP)—Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Army threatened reprisals against France if it does not release suspected Algerian extremists, according to a communique from the organisation received by AFP here Saturday.

The Islamic Salvation Army called for "the immediate liberation" of the 17 Islamic fundamentalists detained at a barracks in France, threatening reprisals inside France if the demand was not met.

The organisation, the military wing of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front, also denied any responsibility for the killing of five French citizens on the outskirts of Algiers Thursday.

Blida University Official Shot Dead 6 Aug

LD0608200094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The security services have announced that Abdelkader Benrebiha, head of the agronomy institute of Blida University, was shot dead today in Blida. [passage omitted]

Another statement released by the security forces notes that between Sunday and Friday, 18 terrorists have been eliminated in Algiers, Boumerdes, Ghelisane, Tlemcen, and Jijel.

Egypt

U.S. Secretary of State Arrives on Short Visit

Received by Foreign Minister

NC0608100594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Alexandria, 6 Aug (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Alexandria before noon today at the beginning of a new tour of some Middle Eastern states to encourage the regional peace process.

He was received by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who escorted him to the Palestine Hotel, where he will stay during his short visit to Egypt, which will last for several hours.

Meets With Mubarak, 'Arafat

NC0608152394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria today. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, the U.S. ambassador to Cairo, and members of the delegation accompanying Christopher attended the meeting. Efforts to accelerate the peace process and remove the obstacles facing Syrian-Israeli talks were discussed during the session.

Palestinian Chairman Yasir 'Arafat joined the talks between President Mubarak and Secretary Christopher an hour after they started. Earlier President Mubarak and 'Arafat held talks over a luncheon banquet.

Joint News Conference Held

NC0608172294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak announced at the end of his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that he has received oral messages from U.S. President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

Mubarak said he and the U.S. secretary of state discussed several issues concerning the Syrian track of the Middle East peace talks and the Palestinian issue. He added: We also met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and discussed many points, which will be conveyed to the Israeli Government through the U.S. secretary of state to facilitate everything for the Palestinians.

Regarding the Syrian track, President Mubarak said at a news conference he held with the U.S. secretary of state: I have said repeatedly that we hope to reach a solution by the end of this year because this is vital to the Middle East issue.

He added: I welcome the U.S. secretary of state to come at any time to Egypt to discuss the issues of the Middle East peace and bilateral relations.

As for bilateral relations, the president said: We discussed some issues, which we will follow up with U.S. Vice President Al Gore when he visits Cairo on 5 September.

For his part, Warren Christopher thanked President Mubarak and said: I came to Egypt to meet President Mubarak on the first stop of my tour of the Middle East because I wanted to benefit from his wisdom and far-sightedness. He noted that President Mubarak and the Egyptian Government are playing a pioneering role in the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. He said: We held extremely good talks. President Mubarak briefed us on his talks with President al-Asad and Rabin and I benefited from President Mubarak's advice.

Christopher added: Chairman 'Arafat also met with President Mubarak today. We had an opportunity to see Chairman 'Arafat for a few minutes and followed up on the issues that we had previously discussed with him concerning aid and expediting the projects in Gaza and Jericho. The meeting was generally useful and fruitful. Numerous issues and projects were discussed, but this meeting focused mainly on the Middle East peace process. President Mubarak and Egypt greatly contributed in the past to advancing this process and to continuing it.

Christopher was asked about president 'Arafat's request for negotiations on the future of Jerusalem city because of a clause in the Jordanian-Israeli Declaration concerning Jordan's jurisdiction over religious sites in Jerusalem and about the U.S. stand on that request. He replied: It is not for the United States to decide on this; the issue in question is not a U.S. position but rather the stand of the negotiating parties. The Palestinians and Israelis agreed in the Declaration of Principles that negotiations over Jerusalem will be held in the final phase. I believe this is not Washington's stand but the stand of the parties to the Declaration of Principles.

Christopher was asked about Mr. Rabin's remarks during his recent visit to Taba to the effect that Israel is ready for a withdrawal "on the Golan Heights" and whether this meant that there will not be a complete withdrawal from the Golan. He answered: Since we are facilitating the negotiations process, do not expect me to disclose the parties' positions; but what I can say is that the negotiations are proceeding in an extremely serious manner. I came back to this region because I believe that there is an opportunity to make progress. There are difficult issues, and they are tackling them with unprecedented seriousness. I am not in a position to announce the exact stands of the parties. I am sure that you understand well why I can not do that.

The U.S. secretary of state was asked whether the United States will do something to resolve the problem of the delay of the aid earmarked for the self-rule areas. He said: Yesterday I sent a message to all aid donors who came to Washington, urging them to accelerate the aid. My visit to Gaza confirmed that there is a dire need for them to build houses and set up projects. I asked the donors to follow Washington's example in this regard.

He added: I also discussed with Mr. 'Arafat today the measures he can take to expedite negotiations with the World Bank and to provide the suitable and required documents.

Christopher went on: 'Arafat's response to the issues we discussed calls for optimism. The topics we discussed today were mainly economic. However, 'Arafat referred to a number of issues he had raised with President Mubarak, and if we are able to assist with these issues we will not hesitate to do so.

'Arafat To Brief Mubarak on Peace Process

To Discuss Issues, Obstacles

NC0508142694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Alexandria tomorrow for a meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

The Palestinian ambassador to Cairo, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, said 'Arafat will brief Mubarak on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena and the obstacles still impeding full implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement.

This will be the first visit by 'Arafat to Egypt since he entered Palestine on 1 July.

Closed Meeting Held

NC0608112094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Alexandria, 6 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria this afternoon.

The two leaders held a closed meeting.

'Arafat arrived in Alexandria earlier today.

Musa Returns From Geneva, Views Christopher Visit

NC0508211094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Geneva this evening after leading the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the Islamic Liaison Contact Group on Bosnia. In an arrival statement, Musa said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Egypt tomorrow will take place within the framework of consultations between the two countries. Christopher will then continue his tour of other countries in the region. He will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, and Jordanian and Israeli officials in an attempt to advance negotiations on the Israeli-Syrian track following progress on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks. He said that a political and diplomatic boost must be given to the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. He noted that it will become clear during Christopher's tour if progress is possible now or if the situation requires another round.

Regarding the Security Council meeting on Bosnia, Musa said that the Islamic Liaison Group rejected Serbian policy and held the Security Council and the International Contact Group responsible for putting an end to Serbian aggression against Bosnia.

Musa on Israeli Raid, Measures Against Serbs

NC0608110694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1010 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Hamdi Jawhar; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Jawhar] Is there a possibility of holding a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Alexandria?

[Musa] No.

[Jawhar] Israel attacked south Lebanon, killing eight civilians. The Israeli Government expressed regret. What is your comment on that incident?

[Musa] My comment is clear: Attacking civilians without any deterrent and without consideration for the stage the peace process is going through is absolutely unacceptable. There are also other humanitarian and legal considerations involved. I am deeply concerned at such operations, even if they happen by mistake, as the Israelis are saying. After all, they should be more careful and abstain from violating the Lebanese or any other Arab airspace. They should not attack any part of surrounding Arab states. We are in the course of negotiations within the context of a peace process. Such things can never serve peace.

[Jawhar] The UN Security Council will hold a meeting to discuss the situation in Bosnia, in light of the Serbian rejection of the peace plan. Is the Islamic Contact Group doing anything to clarify its position?

[Musa] The recent meeting in Geneva was very clear in rejecting the Serbian policy. Not by orations or mere statements, but by specific steps. We hold the UN Security Council and the international Contact Group responsible. They presented some proposals and a specific plan that was accepted by Bosnians and rejected by Serbians. The group pointed out that if a certain party rejected the plan, specific measures would be taken against him. These measures should have already been taken. This is what we called for.

There are clear developments at present. The Serbians in the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro have started to threaten the bloodthirsty Serbian leaders in Bosnia-Herzegovina that they would sever ties with them. The Russians did the same. The Islamic contact group and the United States warned that if the current situation continued they would assist Bosnia. It is inconceivable to leave matters at the mercy of a bunch of criminals, like those Serbians in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Even the Serbian leader described these criminals as blood and war mongers. It is inconceivable to leave matters in the hands of such people. They are irresponsible warmongers who manipulate people's lives for material gains, in addition to their shameful history. They practiced ethnic cleansing, murder, and other crimes.

The UN Security Council must take action to deter Bosnia's Serbs and enable Muslims to defend themselves, if the others persist in their actions.

Mubarak Discusses Issues With NDP Members

NC0608164994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 6 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak said that his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher later today is part of the efforts to achieve progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace talks. Egypt's role is influential in regional issues, especially with regard to promoting a comprehensive peace and maintaining a balance between the various sides of the Middle East issue.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said President Husni Mubarak discussed several domestic and foreign issues during his meeting with the National Democratic Party [NDP] members in Alexandria today. He added that President Mubarak noted that the world around us is changing quickly and it is a mistake to assume that we will remain aloof from political and economic international developments.

President Mubarak said this situation requires us to remain abreast of changes in order to preserve our interests as a country and our role as a leading nation. [passage omitted]

The information minister said that President Mubarak reviewed the outcome of his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The president said that it is important to make progress on the Syrian track. Syria is eager to achieve peace and Israel is ready to return Syrian land, he stated. The president said that all sides are seeking to build bridges of confidence and narrow the gap between their views in order to achieve a comprehensive and just peace.

Concerning the situation in Sudan, President Mubarak said that the Egyptian and Sudanese foreign ministers were supposed to meet but certain Sudanese actions prevented that meeting from taking place.

The president said that Egypt is coming under a meaningless and unjustified barrage of scathing rhetoric issuing from Sudan. It is our policy to ignore that campaign. The name-calling in the Sudanese press is a departure from Islamic and Arab values and principles. The president said that Egypt does not interfere in Sudanese affairs and has never played any role in changing any regime accepted by its own people.

The president added that the Sudanese accuse Egypt of atheism and claim that Egyptian aircraft attacked Aba Island in the past. This is untrue. Not one Egyptian plane, either fighter or bomber, has ever taken part in the bombardment of Aba. We refused to do that when former President Ja'far Numayri (?asked us to), Mubarak said. He added: The Sudanese know the facts and we will not stoop to their name-calling tactics. [passage omitted]

Concerning the National Dialogue Congress's recommendation of election by lists, Minister al-Sharif said that President Mubarak declared that we are examining all the recommendations by the congress with a view to serving the interests of the people. Nations last longer than individuals, Mubarak stated.

The president said that we are examining all the recommendations. My main concern is the welfare of the people. The people brought me into office in order to defend their interests. So far, I have not made any decision about the congress' recommendations with regard to the election system, Mubarak stated.

The president said that all recommendations are under examination in various committees, and appropriate decisions will be made with regard to all the recommendations made by the congress. [passage omitted]

Concerning the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] to be held in Cairo early next month, President Mubarak said that the ICPD will not change our religious values. No one can interfere with society's time-honored traditions and values. The ICPD's recommendations are not binding on participating countries or delegations, he stated. The president said that the delegations have the right to approve, reject, or make reservations about matters that depart from their principles.

The president said that we will remain faithful to God-given religions. Egypt is the seat of al-Azhar and will not relinquish its values. Islam and Christianity reject everything departing from human and ethical values, traditions, and norms.

President Mubarak said that all the Egyptian papers presented at the conference will be unequivocally clear in their commitment to human and religious values. [passage omitted]

Cairo Objects to Israel-Jordan Jerusalem Accord

NC0608141594 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 1 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Hamdi al-Husayni]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry last week summoned [Israeli Ambassador] David Sultan and gave him an official message expressing Egypt's objection to the clause in the Jordanian-Israeli agreement concerning Jordan's supervision of the holy shrines in Jerusalem. The message says that the clause contravenes the agreement signed by Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo in May 1994. (The latter agreement states that Jerusalem will be subject to negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis)

The message adds that Egypt will support the Palestinian position, which rejects Jordanian supervision. Egypt will support any Arab or Islamic move backing the Palestinians' right to restore Jerusalem and invalidating the Jordanian-Israeli deal in this regard.

Defense Minister on Visit to China, Pakistan

NC0508174794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Aug (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, has stated that during his visits to China and Pakistan agreement was reached on cooperation with the two countries in the field of developing and modernizing the weapons and military equipment of the three states.

In a press statement today, Tantawi said: We discussed the areas of cooperation between Egypt and China. We agreed to maintain this cooperation and to discuss other topics on which we can cooperate with China. He indicated that relations between Egypt and China are deep-rooted and are constantly growing, explaining that cooperation between the two countries is not subject to continuous protocols, but we will support this cooperation in other spheres. Moreover, Egypt has adopted a policy of diversifying its weapons. This policy is still being pursued. We have some Eastern weapons and equipment. Our goal is to prolong the life span of these weapons by developing them. China is one of the states that cooperate with Egypt in the field of maintaining weapons, developing them, and prolonging their life span. [passage omitted]

Tantawi said the development and modernization of weapons in Egypt is proceeding in all directions. He said we have old Eastern weapons that we cannot entirely get rid of at present or in the near future. He explained that in order to get rid of these weapons, we must acquire modern weapons. If we decide to acquire modern weapons, this might conflict with our economic capability. Therefore, we have no alternative but to acquire modern weapons according to our economic capability and modernize our old weapons and update them in such a way that there will be no big difference between them and the modern weapons.

On President Mubarak's role in initiating military cooperation with these states, Field Marshal Tantawi stressed that this role is the "cornerstone for this success" because the prevailing impression among all people is one of admiration for President Mubarak's role in the Middle East peace process. He said: I have heard that, but for this role no solution will have been found for the Middle East problem. We as armed forces and I as a military man benefit from President Mubarak's role in strengthening military relations and cooperation with these states.

On Pakistan's efforts to confront terrorist elements, Field Marshal Tantawi said: As defense minister, it is not my jurisdiction to discuss these topics. However, what I know is that Pakistan is trying to take the necessary measures to confront these elements.

On the impact of the peace agreements between Israel and some Arab countries on the Egyptian Army, Field Marshal Tantawi said a state that relaxes militarily surrenders its destiny to grave dangers. The words military relaxation do not exist in our dictionary.

Field Marshal Tantawi said the peace era has its requirements just as the war era has its requirements. The work of the armed forces in time of peace is more serious and more difficult than in time of war. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Speaker Birri Arrives, Seeks Help

NC0808122494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri arrived in Cairo today on a four-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur.

Before leaving Beirut earlier today, Birri said he will brief President Husni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials on the serious developments in south Lebanon represented by the repeated Israeli attacks, most recently against Dayr al-Zahrani, in which seven civilians were killed and dozens of others wounded.

He added that he will ask President Mubarak to make efforts regionally and internationally to halt the repeated Israeli assaults against the Lebanese people in the south.

Birri affirmed that President Mubarak and Egypt bear a major responsibility in this connection in view of Egypt's status as the big Arab sister, its international standing, and political influence.

New Sudanese Ambassador Arrives in Cairo

NC0508150394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Aug (MENA)—Ahmad al-Tayyib al-Kurdufani, the new Sudanese ambassador to Egypt, arrived in Cairo today to replace Ambassador 'Izz-al-Din Hamid, who has been transferred to Khartoum.

The new Sudanese ambassador expressed the hope that any differences impeding the continuation of close fraternal relations between Egypt and Sudan will be overcome.

Al-Kurdufani was the Sudanese ambassador to Germany.

Yemen's al-'Attas Leaves for YSP Meeting

NC0708125094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Aug (MENA)—Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, former prime minister of Yemen, left Cairo at noon today for Damascus after a private two-day visit to Egypt.

Al-'Attas stated before his departure that he will participate in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] meetings, which will be held tomorrow, Monday, in Damascus to discuss the latest developments in Yemen.

He pointed out that his recent discussions in Geneva with Mr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and minister of planning, affirmed the importance of continuing dialogue between the Yemeni sides.

Al-'Attas said that another round of talks will be held, the date and place of which will be determined later through Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, UN envoy on the Yemeni problem.

Minister Says Security Agencies in 'Full Control'

NC0708094794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Luxor, 7 Aug (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has affirmed that the security situation is stable in Upper Egypt and that the security forces are in full control. The police forces will continue their policy and are prepared for any possibility, he said.

Speaking to reporters in Luxor last evening, al-Alfi said that attempts by extremists to reorganize their ranks have all been frustrated and that the security organizations have sufficient information to confront anyone who tries to reorganize the ranks. He remarked that it is in the public interest not to reveal these attempts, since they are still under investigation.

Al-Alfi pointed out that 35 extremists have been repatriated from abroad so far and that all fugitive leaders abroad are being monitored.

The interior minister added that a number of extremist elements uncovered by Pakistan lately will be extradited to their countries.

In a speech to the commanders and officers of the Qina Security Directorate in Luxor, al-Alfi affirmed that the security situation in the country is good and that the challenge now lies in maintaining that level of success. He noted that the security agencies are confronting terrorist elements very firmly to nip their schemes in the bud because these terrorists are bent on reorganizing their ranks at instructions from abroad.

He noted that tourism is being revived and that Egypt will soon witness two important events represented in the International Conference on Population and Development, which involves 191 states, and the opera, Aida, that will be presented in the Hatchibsut temple in Luxor.

Egyptian Citizen Convicted in Sudan of 'Immorality'

Relationship to Minister Denied

NC0608205594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1953 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—An Interior Ministry official source tonight denied a report carried by a Western news agency citing the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY [SUNA] that a relative of Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has been convicted of immorality in Sudan. The source said such reports are false and fabricated. The interior minister has no relative with the name that appeared in the foregoing item, if such a name exists at all. The source said this fabricated news is part of the Sudanese regime's media campaigns against Egypt.

The Interior Ministry source stated that the German agency DPA broadcast an item citing the so-called official SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY that the Sudanese authorities have convicted Egyptian national Faruq Hasan al-Alfi of bribe-taking and using his residence for prostitution. The news agency alleged that the convicted individual and Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi are related.

The source continued: Although the fabricated reports carried by such news agencies do not deserve a response, they have reached a low level that reflects the depths to which the Sudanese media have sunk in their dealings with Egypt. It is, therefore, necessary to make this comment:

First, it is absolutely untrue that Egyptian Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi is related to Faruq Hasan al-Alfi, the name appearing in the DPA item—if an individual with this name exists at all.

Second, it is inconceivable that Egypt would not have already warned a person so closely related to Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi to leave Sudan because if he remained there he would become a target for the regime, the frenzied media, and the terrorists who roam freely in the eastern and western parts of fraternal Sudan.

Third, it is noticeable that the Sudanese media have recently sought to offend Egypt [words indistinct].

Fourth, it would have been more appropriate for Germany's DPA, which carried the item, to take into account that such media frequently do not transmit accurate news. Instead of getting involved in disseminating such false reports, DPA should have contacted the Egyptian Interior Ministry to ascertain the accuracy of the item before transmitting it.

Embassy To Appeal Sentence

NC0708153794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Aug (MENA)—The Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum has taken measures to appeal the sentence handed down by the regime's court in Khartoum against citizen Faruq Hasan al-Alfi, manager of employees affairs in the Egyptian Irrigation Department in Khartoum.

Minister Plenipotentiary Ramadan al-Sharif, charge d'affaires at the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum, has clarified that Mr. al-Alfi is above suspicion and that all the sons of the Egyptian community in Sudan are convinced he is innocent.

The court in Khartoum convicted Mr. al-Alfi, who is 57 years old, on charges of adultery and bribery and sentenced him to 9 months in prison. It also demanded a guarantee of 30,000 Sudanese pounds and insisted he leave Sudan after he serves his sentence.

It has become clear from the files of the case that the bribery amount for which the Egyptian citizen has been convicted is 125 Sudanese pounds, the equivalent of 85 Egyptian piasters. A responsible source yesterday denied reports by Western news agencies citing the Sudanese news agency SUNA, that Faruq Hasan al-Alfi is the cousin of the interior minister.

'Terrorist' Cells' Revival Reportedly 'Aborted'

NC0508204994 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] State Security detectives have aborted an attempt to rebuild some terrorist cells. A group of terrorists, including some new arrivals from abroad, have been arrested. The newly arrived terrorists had been sent from abroad with instructions to recruit new members inside the country.

An Interior Ministry security source disclosed that fugitive terrorists residing abroad are continuing their attempts to establish new cells inside Egypt after the leaders of previous cells in Cairo and Upper Egypt fell into the hands of the police. They are supplying some of their followers with passports to mislead the security forces and allow them to enter the country unobserved. The State Security forces, however, obtained information about their plans, maintained a watch on their planned movements, and arrested them on their arrival.

AL-AHRAM's correspondent has learned that the arrested terrorists made confessions about how they were recruited abroad and sent to Egypt. He also learned that the State Security Prosecutor's Office is currently interrogating another newly discovered terrorist group which was arrested in al-Qalyubiyah Governorate a few days ago.

Muslim 'Militant' Arrested for 1992 Copt Killings

NC0508205394 Paris AFP in English 2015 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Aug 5 (AFP)—Police on Friday [5 August] arrested a suspected Moslem militant wanted for the killing of 13 Coptic Christians in Egypt's troubled south two years ago, security sources said.

Suspected militants killed 13 Copts in a dawn shoot-out in May 1992 in Asyut province's Sanabu village, 320 kilometers (200 miles) south of Cairo. Two militants also died.

Faraj 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Nabi, a native of Sanabu, was watching a police station at the entrance to Asyut city from a nearby restaurant when a police officer recognized him.

The sources said 'Abd-al-Nabi was tracking another policeman and carrying a gun when he was arrested.

Almost 400 people have been killed in a confrontation between Moslem militants and the authorities that erupted in March 1992, including dozens of Copts.

Prime Minister Notes 'Success' in Privatization

NC0708154894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has stated that Egypt has achieved tangible success in implementing the economic reform program, a success which has been praised by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In a press statement today, Dr. Sidqi says the sale of some public sector companies is proceeding according to a set economic program; the sale of any company is effected only after the highest bid is made. Dr. Sidqi said the privatization process aims to expand the base of ownership by offering some of the shares of these companies to the employees of these companies and to ordinary citizens. This contributes to the rejuvenation of the stock market.

Visit by Iranian Economic Delegation Viewed

NC0708143094 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] The recent visit to Cairo by an official Iranian economic delegation constituted a landmark in the relations between Egypt and Iran, which have been strained since the triumph of the Iranian revolution and the elimination of Shah Muhammad Reza Pahlavi in 1979. The visit reflects Syria's successful efforts to bridge the gap between these two countries' views as part of the role that Damascus has been playing for many years.

The Iranian economic delegation was made up of Asghar Kashani, deputy governor of the Iranian Central Bank, and Morteza Arami, governor of the Salat Bank. The delegation's visit is the first official visit to Egypt. However, another visit was made by Iranian businessmen in December 1992 to examine the status of certain joint Egyptian-Iranian ventures, such as the Egyptian-Iranian Bank chaired by former Egyptian Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan, and the Egyptian- Iranian Spinning and Textile Company. The Iranian delegation held talks with Egyptian businessmen only. Meanwhile, the official economic delegation held talks with officials at the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Economy, and the Central Bank.

The recent Iranian economic delegation's visit was the fruit of an agreement reached between the foreign ministers of Egypt and Iran during the recent nonaligned foreign ministers' conference in Cairo. The two ministers agreed to continue political talks in Damascus and through diplomatic channels or in any other place to be agreed upon by the two countries' foreign ministries.

The Egyptian and Iranian foreign ministers exchanged messages for the first time, though it was shrouded in secrecy. The messages were conveyed through diplomatic channels as part of their agreement to use quiet political language far from media clamor. Furthermore, several covert meetings were also held between officials of the two countries. During a meeting in Damascus in early July, the Iranian delegation said foreign countries are endeavoring to aggravate the differences between the two countries.

Cairo, however, does not view its differences with Iran from this perspective. In its reports to the Presidential Office, the Foreign Ministry said that Iran considers several existing differences with Egypt as peripheral and minor and that they can be circumvented. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry's reports see that the existing differences with Iran are over political outlooks, regional security measures, and the role played in the region by international forces.

The Foreign Ministry reports point out that discussion of the political differences between the two countries might drag on for a long time. However, the reports stress the importance of the existing positive phenomenon in Egyptian-Iranian relations. This phenomenon is represented in the irregular political meetings between diplomatic representatives.

Although the Foreign Ministry's report hinted that the four political meetings that have taken place since the meeting between 'Amr Musa and 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the fringes of the nonaligned foreign ministers conference did not achieve the desired progress, the Iranian evaluation is completely different. Iran believes these meetings made great progress. An Iranian official told Syrian officials the proof of this progress is the courteous language used in the messages between the two countries' foreign ministers, in addition to the two ministers' agreement on a number of regional issues.

Following the recent meeting of the Damascus Declaration states, President Mubarak issued instructions to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa not to sever the current contacts with Iran because such contacts might lead to the convergence of the Egyptian and Iranian views on Gulf security and violence in the region.

In another development, the foreign minister submitted a report to President Mubarak indicating that the Iranians have recently expressed readiness to provide Egypt with any information about "terrorism" and to answer any questions in this regard, provided that the Egyptian Government verifies its claims that Iran supports terrorism.

In his report, Musa referred to an important point dealing with Iran's desire to promote economic cooperation with Egypt. During their recent meetings the Iranians proposed the separation of economic cooperation from political cooperation. Egypt had in the past insisted on the linking of these two sectors for fear that an increase in joint economic interests between Egypt and Iran might lead to an increase in Iran's role in terrorist operations in Egypt.

Reports indicate that President Mubarak approved the foreign minister's advice that emphasis be placed on economic relations. The foreign minister's report pointed to Iran's strong economic relations with the Islamic republics in Central Asia (former USSR) and with other Asian states. This would benefit Egypt's economic relations with these states.

During its recent visit the Iranian economic delegation submitted a specific working plan on the nature of economic cooperation between the two countries in the coming phase. The plan's main features are:

1. Increasing bilateral trade: Reports indicate that Egyptian businessmen met with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi on 7 July and emphasized to him the need to open the Iranian market to Egyptian goods and products. The

economic balance in Egypt's trade relations with Iran will be 20 percent more favorable than its relations with other Asian and African countries.

During the first meeting between Egyptian and Iranian businessmen in December 1992 it was agreed to implement a number of joint projects, for a total of nine important production projects. At that time the Egyptian Government opposed the implementation of these projects due to Egyptian accusations that Iran was supporting terrorist operations in Egypt. Egyptian businessmen were reportedly the first to call for the separation of political relations from economic relations.

2. Increasing joint investments between the two countries: In this regard, the Iranian plan calls for investments in agricultural and industrial spheres and in the production of consumer goods. Iran believes the joint investment projects will meet the citizens' basic needs and be in a position to compete with foreign projects.

3. Giving impetus to existing investments by increasing their capital, using the most up-to-date technology, and giving these investments a prominent role in supplying neighboring countries with their needed industrial products. Egyptian-Iranian investments can also participate in all joint economic cooperation projects in the region.

4. Achieving economic cooperation between Egypt and Iran in pioneering economic projects in the two countries.

5. Establishing joint industries in Cairo and Tehran by using the raw materials available in the two countries.

6. Holding research seminars and conferences among the two countries' businessmen and economic experts. These seminars will be held periodically to acquaint each side with the economic potential of the other side.

7. Forming committees attached to the ministries of the two countries to eliminate technical and administrative obstacles to the implementation of joint projects.

8. Exchanging visits by the ministers of economy and trade of the two countries and signing protocols and agreements to organize this economic cooperation.

Reports indicate that the Egyptian Government considers the ideas mentioned in the Iranian paper to be positive. The Egyptian Government is currently studying these ideas. Meanwhile, an Egyptian economic delegation will visit Iran in the next few weeks. The delegation will carry files on the implementation of joint projects in accordance with the Iranian working plan. All this indicates that Egyptian-Iranian relations will actually improve now.

Kuwait

Iran Awaits Response on Joint Military Exercise

MM0508113994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Faris al-Salman: "Kuwait Considering Request With Cooperation Council States. Iran Asks Kuwait To Conduct Joint Maneuvers"]

[Text] Kuwait—Abol Qasem Sha'sha'i, Iranian charge d'affaires to the State of Kuwait, has confirmed that Iran submitted a request to the Kuwaiti Government three months ago to conduct military maneuvers involving naval and ground forces.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday Sha'sha'i pointed out that "after the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait, Iran proposed joint cooperation to the Gulf states." He pointed out that "the people of the region are capable of defending themselves in the face of any external threat." Sha'sha'i added: "This proposal included all the Gulf states, including the State of Kuwait. But these states, including Kuwait, have not replied to the request to conduct joint maneuvers." Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah had said that "a request to conduct joint maneuvers with Iran is being studied," pointing out that it was necessary to refer this matter to the brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

National Assembly Approves 1994-95 Budget

LD0608183794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, 6 Aug, KUNA—During today's ordinary session, the National Assembly approved the draft budget that was submitted by the government, incorporating the budgets of ministries and government departments, for the fiscal year 1994-95. The deficit was forecast at 1.766 billion Kuwaiti dinars.

The projected revenues of the budget stand at 2.537 billion dinars, while the oil revenues for the current year were estimated at 2.234 billion dinars.

The contribution of oil revenue toward the overall revenues of the year 1994-95 were represent 88.09 percent.

Nasir al-Rawdan, second deputy prime minister and minister of finance, stated that there was still enough time to deal with budget deficit.

He also stressed that the government has approved the privatization process and set a period of five years to complete it. He also announced that 13 companies have been transferred into the private sector and that the private sector would be taking part in a number of government's projects. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning, urged the examination of the draft amendments of the bill on loans and added that such a draft focused on two things: lengthening the period of registration until October and the possibility of representation, especially that there were 2,555 borrowers who had yet to register their debts. [sentence as received] [passage omitted]

Information Minister on U.S. Presence, Iran

NC0708111394 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 31 Jul 94 p 5

[Interview with Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by Sana' al-Sa'id in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sa'id] President Saddam Husayn announced an initiative that guarantees security and peace and calls for dialogue to develop a formula to end regional disputes. How do you view this initiative?

[Al-Sabah] I listened to the contents of that initiative, if you can call it that. It is meaningless. It is nothing but a political maneuver and not an initiative. The course Iraq should take is clear and distinct: to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions fully. There will be no room for opening dialogue or restoring relations in any sector until the Iraqi regime fully commits itself to implementing the UN resolutions on POW's, hostages, the border issue, and outstanding issues related to Kuwaiti and Iraqi lands. The Iraqi regime must show willingness to fully recognize Kuwait and its sovereignty over its lands within the borders drawn up by the UN Security Council. Hence, the maneuver is not for discussion. We are accustomed to such attempts by the Iraqi regime, through the regime itself or the members of its government. We are also accustomed to their play on words and their tricky announcements. We will not deal with Iraq at that level. Our dealing with them will be on clear and definite principles on the basis of international legitimacy.

[Al-Sa'id] It was reported recently that the biggest U.S. military base in the Middle East has been established in Kuwait and that its strategic goal is to launch rapid military operations against Iraq and Iran if needed.

[Al-Sabah] First of all, it is not a military base. There are only limited U.S. troops and equipment in Kuwait in response to its desire to guarantee security and stability in the region as long as the present Iraqi regime exists. These are security arrangements similar to those worked out with the United Kingdom, France, and Russia for the same purpose. Hence, no one should use this presence to claim the existence of a U.S. base. The arrangements are governed by an agreement that has specific goals and stipulates that these troops should be used for no other objective than to defend Kuwait against any threat or invasion by any state.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that these troops will be directed against Iraq and Iran if they pose any threat?

[Al-Sabah] As I said, they are there to guard Kuwait's security and stability against any threats.

[Al-Sa'id] Will Kuwait's security continue to rely on a foreign presence?

[Al-Sabah] Since the invasion, we have sought to establish Arab security guarded by Arab and Islamic troops. When we failed to develop a formula for the concept of pan-Arab security, we turned toward the Arab-foreign alliance. This is part of Kuwait's right to defend itself in cooperation with the countries concerned in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. It is a legitimate right. The matter now depends on the Arab world's ability to defend itself. I do not reveal a secret when I state that Kuwait is not the only Arab state that has U.S. troops. There are U.S. troops in several Arab states, although their presence is being kept secret. We in Kuwait have no secrets; we do everything in the open. Many Arab states deal with U.S. and other forces, either through air or land bases or joint maneuvers, like those conducted by fraternal Egypt and the U.S. troops, the "Rising Star" maneuvers. This U.S. presence serves and enhances the capabilities of the Kuwaiti defense forces that will protect the country in the near future. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Iran will continue to raise a question mark for the Gulf states. The final statement of the 14th Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit demanded Iran's withdrawal from the three islands that belong to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Although Iran refuses to do that and declares its preparedness to turn the Gulf waters into a blood bath, the Gulf states are trying to develop their political, economic, and touristic ties with it.

[Al-Sabah] Iran is a big state in the Gulf region. In my view, it should be part of the Gulf security. There is a dispute between Iran and the UAE concerning the three islands. We adopted a stance on this matter during the GCC foreign ministers meeting when we decided to refer the matter to international arbitration. It is up to the UAE and Iran to settle the matter.

However, there is a very important factor in the matter; the issue of maintaining the balance of powers in the region, which is very important to us. We are seeking to establish good relations and productive cooperation with Iran. We will never forget that Kuwait has always called for avoiding a foreign presence in the region. It has always believed that the region's security and stability should be the responsibility of regional states. But the catastrophe that occurred changed this equation. It has become inevitable for the Gulf states, including Iran, to realize this problem and to work together, rather than against each other, to deter any potential threat. A foreign presence will continue to maintain this balance. We, in the meantime, are eager to maintain good and distinctive relations with Iran to guard the region against potential threats.

[Al-Sa'id] What about differences among the GCC states, particularly concerning the unilateral stances adopted by Qatar and Oman? How far do you think this will affect the basic principles?

[Al-Sabah] There are basic, unalterable principles; namely, the common destiny of the Gulf states. If there are side differences between some Gulf states, these will not affect the collective stance in the face of foreign threats. This goes without saying. If there are disputes between some GCC states, they revolve around side issues. But there are more important issues that make them put aside these differences and stand in one rank. What some Gulf states embarked on was in pursuit of certain political lines that involve the individual interests of these states. We have nothing to say on this matter. However, we hope the Gulf states will overcome these problems and side disputes, particularly since they are not crucial.

[Al-Sa'id] How sensitive are you toward Qatar's quest to improve relations with Iraq?

[Al-Sabah] I do not think that they are improving relations, particularly if we take into account that many states maintained their relations with Iraq, although they engaged in war against it. People differ on this political or diplomatic concept. Many states still have embassies and maintain their relations with Iraq, although they joined the alliance to liberate the state of Kuwait. We do not pin much importance on this matter because each Gulf state is entitled to its own political stance. But we hope that they will agree on a united stance to isolate the Iraqi regime, whose existence poses a threat not only to Kuwait but to all Gulf states. The Gulf states should realize that if the allied forces had not intervened to check the Iraqi expansion in the region, all of the Gulf states would now be under occupation. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Pakistan's Bhutto Ends Visit, Departs

LD0708135394 Riyadh SPA in English 1244 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Jeddah, 7 Aug (SPA)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the accompanying delegation left here last night. She was seen off at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by Prince Majid Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the governor of Makkah region, and a number of officials.

5 Sudanese Have Hands Cut Off as Punishment

LD0508131394 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The legal punishment for theft was carried out today, Friday, in the city of Jeddah in Mecca Region, on five Sudanese nationals, whose right hands were cut off at the wrist after they were convicted of carrying out a number of thefts.

The Ministry of Interior today issued a statement in this regard. The text of the ministry of interior statement follows: [passage omitted]

Muhammad Hasib Muhammad, Majdi Ahmad Khalid, Tariq Ahmad al-'Ata Ahmad, Mirghani Yusif Muhammad Sulayman, and al-Tayyib Ramadan 'Abdallah, who are all Sudanese nationals, committed a number of thefts from several houses. After breaking and removing outside doors which they found closed, they stole gold, jewelery, electrical appliances, and safes and divided up the stolen property between them. Following an investigation they were found guilty of the thefts with which they were charged and were referred to the shari'ah court which issued a legal document against them saying that the charge against them had been proven. Each was sentenced to have their right hand cut off at the wrist. Since cutting off the hand was found to be legal in their case, the sentence was approved by the cassation body and the permanent bodies of the Supreme Judicial Council.

Royal decree no. 4/262/M was issued on 4/2/1415 AH requiring the legally stipulated punishment to be carried out on the abovementioned date. The sentence was carried out by cutting off the hands of the thieves Muhammad Hasib Muhammad, Majdi Ahmad Khalid, Tariq Ahmad al-'Ata, Mirghani Yusif Muhammad Sulayman, and al-Tayyib Ramadan on Friday 28 Safar, 1415 AH [5 July 1994] in the city of Jeddah in Mecca Region. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Defense Minister Receives U.S. Ambassador

JN0708194794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur, defense minister, today received Arthur Hayden Hughes, American ambassador to our country, and the new U.S. charge d'affaires. They discussed relations and cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The brother defense minister commended the supportive U.S. position on the unity of Yemen and noted that our country is now practicing democracy. He emphasized that our country's policies are in line with the new world order based on democracy, political party pluralism, freedom of speech and opinion, and market economy. The brother minister emphasized that only now can the unity of Yemen be a factor for regional stability and security, now that its foundations are stronger than at any time in the past with the victory of our valiant Armed Forces in the battle for unity.

For his part, the American ambassador reiterated his country's support for Yemeni unity and democracy as options embraced by the Yemeni people. His country, the U.S. ambassador said, was prepared to resume its assistance to Yemen, and expressed hope that the relations between the two countries will be further improved. The outgoing American charge d'affaires attended the session.

Interior Minister on Security, Elections, Damages

JN0508183094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Sanaa, 5 Aug (INA)—Yemen's Interior Minister Yahya al-Mutawakkil has emphasized that the security situation in the country is stable and compares favorably with what it was before the breakout of hostilities with the separatists.

Yemen's Armed and Security Forces can foil any conspiracy or subversive action against the country, al-Mutawakkil told an INA correspondent visiting Sanaa with an Iraqi media team.

The security challenge was not much of a problem for Yemen, since the country has been facing such a challenge since its inception. Neighboring countries, he added, have been supporting intrigues against the Yemeni revolution. But they were frustrated thanks to the people standing solidly behind the revolution and the country's legitimate leadership in their struggle and valor in defending unity. [passage omitted]

Al-Mutawakkil said he is confident the country will be past the security challenges within a month. He said the security problems arose from large quantities of heavy and medium weapons, as well as ammunition and explosives, distributed by the separatists to civilians in an attempt to destabilize the country. [passage omitted]

The minister was asked about arrangements for local elections in Yemen. The idea of local government, said al-Mutawakkil, had not been embraced in response to pressure mounted by the [Yemeni] Socialist Party. Nor were related promises made by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih an exercise in one-upsmanship. Local government remains on the agenda of the government, the minister emphasized.

The government is now preparing for the elections, which al-Mutawakkil said President Salih insists on holding in early 1995 at the latest. The local elections are not being held in reaction to any external or internal or factional pressure, but to put a government policy in place, al-Mutawakkil stressed. [passage omitted]

He said the separatists wrought considerable damage on the infrastructure, making losses difficult to assess. Al-Mutawakkil indicated that the losses have been estimated by President Salih at $3 billion.

Losses were sustained by the separatists as well as by the government camp, al-Mutawakkil said. He indicated that the separatists lost hundreds of weapons and tens of fighter aircraft. These losses, in the final analysis, are being borne by the people, since the weapons were public property, the minister said.

He said the legitimate forces came into the possession of advanced weapons abandoned by the separatists. These arms, he noted, had been moved into the south during the hostilities. He listed 40 advanced self-propelled guns and long-range missiles and four highly sophisticated MiG-29's, which, according to the information available to Sanaa, are part of a full-fledged squadron of this type of aircraft, and which it is now searching for. We also acquired 17 modern helicopters, al-Mutawakkil said.

The interior minister emphasized that the battle in Yemen now is one of repairing the damage caused by the war

House Approves Loan To Repair Aden Facilities

JN0708170494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The House of Representatives held a regular session under House Speaker brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar this morning. It completed its deliberations on the loan agreement signed between our country's government and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development [AFESD], according to which the AFESD will finance the rehabilitation of Aden's flood-damaged electrical, water, and sewage installations, in light of a report submitted in this regard by the House's General Services Committee.

After the House members completed their deliberations on the agreement, and after they had listened to the clarifications made by a government representative, the aforesaid agreement was put to a vote and was approved by a majority. [passage omitted]

Southern Leaders Delay Damascus Meetings

NC0508145294 Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Damascus, Aug 5 (AFP)—A meeting of leaders from defeated southern Yemen has been called off until next week because too few officials turned up in the Syrian capital, a spokesman announced here Friday [5 August].

Qasim 'Abd-al-Rabb, a central committee member of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), said only four of the party's 22 politburo members had arrived so far.

The party declared a separate state in southern Yemen in May but was defeated by the northern forces of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in a two-month civil war.

It has since been threatened by a split because of Salih's offer of a general amnesty except for 16 top officials of the YSP, who have fled to neighbouring countries.

Members of the YSP based in Sanaa, following the fall of the former southern stronghold of Aden on July 7, have denounced the attempted secession and withdrawn their support for the leadership.

Politburo and central committee members were to have convened in the Syrian capital on Thursday or Friday to discuss the future of their party and southern Yemen.

South Yemen's al-'Attas Interviewed

MM0508165094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, "prime minister of South Yemen" and member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau, by 'Abdallah Hammudah; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hammudah] How would you assess the present situation as regards the Yemeni crisis, after the end of the fighting between northern and southern forces?

[Al-'Attas] After the end of combat operations in Yemen—which began following Sanaa's decision to wage war against the south, which was announced during 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's speech in al-Sab'in Square on 27 April, and as a result of which Sanaa's forces managed to occupy the south—the leadership in the south, including the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], the main partner in the southern alliance, is now experiencing very complex and difficult conditions as a result of the war imposed on our people in the south.

However, all leadership elements are completely confident that the difficult conditions they are experiencing and the results of the war are going to be a helpful factor vis-a-vis rectifying conditions on the Yemeni scene.

At the same time I believe that there are patriotic leaders in the north who believe in the same thing and acknowledge that there is no victor or vanquished in the war. But the fanatic military, tribal leadership in Sanaa is currently placing obstacles in the way of tackling the situation. It will not abandon this position, because it is in line with its position when it declared war on 27 April.

[Hammudah] Can you specify what obstacles the Sanaa leadership is placing in the way of a solution?

[Al-'Attas] It is currently refusing to hold a dialogue or political negotiations over Yemen's future—an issue which was raised before the war. Extensive dialogues were held at national level leading to the "Pledge and Accord Document," which that leadership signed, not with conviction, but in the framework of blackmail, designed to circumvent the document and rob it of substance.

When it became clear that this document enjoyed unanimous national support, the leadership could do nothing but wage war. And it is now obstructing local, regional, Arab, and international efforts to initiate a clear political dialogue among the parties to the crisis, in order to extricate Yemen from the dilemma it is experiencing today and to secure urgent solutions guaranteeing equal rights for citizens and securing the road to the future.

[Hammudah] Let us move on to discuss the YSP's present position. Some people say that its failure to define a specific position at a YSP leadership meeting represents one of the difficulties facing a solution to the crisis, because Sanaa wants to know the YSP's position in order to know how to deal with it. Meanwhile you accuse it of trying to split the party. Let us begin with a point related to rumors about a meeting to be held by the leadership in an Arab capital and whether or not it is going to be held. Can you clarify this point?

[Al-'Attas] First, the YSP leadership—despite the state of dispersal it is experiencing—has a clear position on the dialogue and negotiation issue. The conditions that followed the war dispersed leadership elements among more than one country. But this dispersal does not mean that communications among the leadership's elements are cut off or that an exchange of views is nonexistent. This is a fundamental point.

As for holding a direct meeting of all elements—despite its importance—it is a formal matter. For example, a paper has been prepared. It sums up several opinions and ideas which have been exchanged. Several other papers have also been prepared by the leaderships present in this or that country. And all leaderships agreed during their contacts on a working paper concerning orientations vis-a-vis dialogue and negotiations over the political crisis in Yemen.

But Sanaa is aiming to achieve something else by insisting on holding a YSP meeting in Yemen. It does not mean Sanaa cares for the YSP and its leadership. On the contrary, since the unification the Sanaa leadership has always worked to strike at the YSP. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] There are another two points as regards the situation inside the country: The first is that a group of leaders inside the country says that it is operating within the coordination committee framework because the party's higher leadership is abroad. What truth is there in this?

[Al-'Attas] First, to prove that we did not think about the war or plan for it, neither in the party nor in the south, it was Sanaa which declared the war. Many leaders and cadres were in Sanaa. If the party and the national forces in the south had been planning to wage war, they would have summoned all their leaders and cadres like Sanaa did when—before the war—it summoned all its leaders and cadres who were in Aden.

And when the war was waged all passageways were closed, so everyone found himself in a different place. As a result, everyone had to deal with the war according to the conditions he was experiencing. And of course, a state of emergency was announced in Sanaa, forcing many leaders and cadres to adopt certain positions.

A coordination committee was formed to make contacts—and its task is limited to this—in order to explore the party leaders' views, whether during or after the battle. This committee still exists, but its powers are limited to making contacts and coordinating stands. It cannot negotiate over a future plan.

[Hammudah] The other point concerns the party's grass roots and the citizens in Yemen, who feel that the leadership moved out of the country and left them behind. Some people say that the leadership has abandoned them, and some people are trying to exploit this. What is your opinion?

[Al-'Attas] Certainly the party leadership has not abandoned its grass roots or cadres. Nor has the alliance leadership—the leadership of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] announced during the war—abandoned its grass roots or cadres inside the country. It will remain faithful to them and will resume its links and contacts with them, because the stage ahead is more difficult in terms of its tasks and methods than the stage we have already passed through.

[Hammudah] The next point pertaining to the party's position concerns what was said or rumored—and was later denied—about YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid's quitting political action. Did he really quit and later backtracked? Or were the reports untrue? Or was he sick and the rumor was circulated during his illness? And why was no statement issued to clarify this issue immediately?

[Al-'Attas] My recent contacts with brother 'Ali two days ago confirm once again that he did not decide to quit. But issuing a denial of what was reported is up to him personally.

[Hammudah] What is your opinion of what is being said, namely that there are contacts between former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and Sanaa to try to coordinate and nominate him for a post or to benefit from him as an alternative southern leadership to achieve unity in the manner Sanaa wants?

[Al-'Attas] I believe that Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has enough experience with the Sanaa leadership to be able to know what are its aims behind these contacts.

We view Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad as a national figure who can play a role in the framework of a comprehensive and real national reconciliation based on the realities and conditions of the war and its results. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] In view of the outcome of the war, which resulted in hitting the YSP's military force, how do you see the YSP's future without its military force?

[Al-'Attas] I do not want to talk about the YSP as though it is the only armed party. There were armed forces in the south. They have been targeted since the eve of the unification. They are the DRY's forces. Sanaa refused to merge the two forces belonging to Sanaa and Aden.

Without doubt these forces were hit, just as Sanaa's forces were hit. The party and all the national forces in the south are now recovering all their political, military, and security forces in order to be able to use these means more effectively in order to force the military and tribal leadership in Sanaa to accept realistic solutions for the future of the political system in Yemen.

[Hammudah] Am I to understand from that, that there are military personnel inside the country and a tendency to launch military operations against northern forces?

[Al-'Attas] There are military personnel inside, whether from among those who confronted the military onslaught on the south or those who participated in the military onslaught on the south. They are all feeling their way to work together in order to tackle the present reality.

[Hammudah] Does that mean that you see a strong possibility of military operations being launched against the Sanaa leadership?

[Al-'Attas] If there are no political solutions. The southern leadership is seeking political solutions. This has been our position since the political crisis started. We will not deviate from this path unless we are forced to do so just as we were forced to defend ourselves when the war was launched against the south. [passage omitted]

Reports on 'Secret' Contacts With Israel Denied

JN0608135894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] The press attache at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman today categorically denied reports that secret contacts have been held between Iraq and Israel. The Iraqi official said the report on the alleged secret meeting between Iraqi and Israeli military officials in Europe one month ago is fabricated and baseless, adding that such a meeting has never taken place.

Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT yesterday reported that secret contacts have been held over the past few weeks between Iraq and Israel, adding that a ranking Israeli official met with an Iraqi counterpart from the security forces. The paper added that the Iraqi official promised his Israeli counterpart that his country will not oppose Jordan's peace policy vis-a-vis Israel and proposed Iraq's participation in the peace talks in exchange for lifting the international sanctions imposed on it.

Official Meets Turkish Labor Party Delegation

JN0608171994 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 6 (INA)—Director of Foreign Relations Bureau at Iraq's Command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, 'Abd-al- Razzaq al-Hashimi, received today Deputy Chairman of the Turkish Labour Party, Farid Elesfer [name and title as received] and the accompanying delegation.

Bilateral party relations and means of developing them to serve joint interests of both friendly countries were discussed during the meeting.

For his part, Mr. Elesfer reviewed efforts being exerted by his party for lifting the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq and ending plight of its population.

The Turkish delegation had arrived in Baghdad last night on a several days visit to the country.

Ramadan Confers With Jordanian Party Delegation

JN0708173894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has stated that relinquishing Arab land, water, and sovereignty amounts to relinquishing Arab dignity and sanctity.

During his meeting today with the Jordanian Pan-Arab Action Front Party, headed by its Secretary General Muhammad al-Zu'bi, Ramadan said that the sons of Iraq offered rivers of blood and great sacrifices during Saddam's glorious al-Qadisiyah battles and the eternal Mother of Battles to lead an honorable life without humiliation and subservience. They, he added, stick to this policy and are ready to continue to offer sacrifices, deriving their determination from their leader President Saddam Husayn, who is defending Arab honor.

Ramadan also said that the Arab masses cannot be tamed to surrender and be humiliated after having expressed their rejection of subservience, expelled the colonialists, and torn up agreements in order to remain free and to defend their fate and existence.

The members of the Jordanian Pan-Arab Action Front Party delegation expressed their pride in the courageous leadership of President Saddam Husayn and the genuine pan-Arab positions of the Iraqi people, who demonstrate Arab genuineness in defending Arab dignity and existence and adhering to Arab principles, land, and freedom.

Jordanian Group Cables Support for Saddam Husayn

JN0608141394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Amman, 6 Aug (INA)—The Popular Committee for Supporting Iraq and Resisting Aggression in the Jordanian city of al-'Aqabah has reiterated its solidarity with, and support for the people of Iraq in the face of aggression and the continued unfair embargo.

In a cable to President Saddam Husayn on the fourth anniversary of the Great Day of the Call [2 August, marking the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait], Ahmad 'Ali al-Yamani, head of the committee, said: The honorable sons of the city of al-'Aqabah and their popular forces assert their absolute confidence in the historic, unmatched leadership of President Saddam Husayn of the pan-Arab awakening, invoked by the sons of Iraq.

Al-Yamani lauded Iraq's courage and steadfastness, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, in the face of the treacherous 30-state aggression and the negative effects of the unfair embargo being imposed by the United States and its allies in the name of the United Nations and the Security Council.

Paper Views Kuwaiti Experience

JN0708200094 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Article by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "Iraq Has Survived, Whereas The United States Has Fallen Off The Cliff"]

[Text] When Iraq took the giant historic step of entering Kuwait on 2 August 1990, few international and regional quarters thought that this exceptionally significant and serious move would trigger a series of regional and international events and developments that would help mankind avert a bleak future conceived under a horrible U.S. scheme to control the world with the least fuss, and without real crises which could expose the ulterior U.S. motives and intentions and show the fragility of the United States, which has been unilaterally deciding the fate of the globe, although it does not have the basic qualifications of a world leader.

Many people believed that involving Iraq in an "uneven war" would bring about its destruction, and remove the "Iraqi obstacle" standing in the way of the U.S. efforts to achieve the prime U.S. global objective; namely, securing complete and total control over the Arabian Gulf oil fields, and rearranging the international scene without any obstructions or real crises.

However, the computer calculations of U.S. intelligence services, which guide the decisions of U.S. presidents and determine the recommendations of experts, have failed to realize that dealing with human beings whose mettle is different from that of U.S. policymakers will cause the U.S. calculations to err.

For when Iraq, for example, represented by the person of President Saddam Husayn, leader of its great revolution, became aware of the purposes of the conspiracy, and of the increasing pressures targeting it to make it collapse and disintegrate, thanks to the economic war waged against it by Washington's allies, Kuwaiti rulers among others, in implementation of a U.S-Zionist scheme, it acted without waiting for the coup de grace. It made a proper response, something which U.S. computers failed to predict. This response turned the tables upside down, and presented U.S. policymakers with their worst decisionmaking crisis since 1989.

The United States wanted Iraqi territory to be the battlefield. But, the entry into Kuwait has changed that. For Kuwaiti territory became the battlefield. This created geopolitical risks for the United States. For the Saudi and Kuwaiti oil fields became the heart of the battlefield. So, Saudi and Kuwaiti oil supplies, just like Iraqi oil supplies, were at stake, and this posed threats to the United States' "lifeline".

Additionally, the steadfastness and resistance demonstrated by Iraq, which amazed the world and made the Iraqi individual the epitome of heroism and firmness, have exposed the U.S. scheme to the world. It has become clear that the United States does not seek a world order, in which peace, law abidance, cooperation, and respect for the world countries' sovereignty prevail, as George Bush claimed to deceive the world, but that it seeks to colonize the world by the force of arms, and sabotage the sovereignty, culture, and stability of world peoples. The United States wants to enslave world peoples and plunder their resources, using savage weaponry not used before in modern or ancient history. Thus, Iraq has served mankind, which has begun to fortify itself against the U.S. danger.

The credit for unmasking America's endeavor to trigger wars and crises and spread hunger and epidemics in Third World countries must go to Iraq's resoluteness as it took a determined stand against the plan.

If it had not been for Iraq's success in its reconstruction effort, the world would not have understood that the power of the United States was blown all out of proportion. The United States is even reeling from declining trade, technological, and social status.

Four years after the aggression on Iraq and the entrance into Kuwait, it is evident that things have not turned out the way the United States had hoped they would. Led by Saddam Husayn, Iraq has survived, and proceeded to forge ever stronger bonds with Arab and Islamic masses, contrary to American wishes. Without a question, this achievement ranks as a historic and strategic success. The myth of the invincibility of Israel was debunked when al-Husayn and al-'Abbas missiles, as well as Iraq's steadfastness, punctured the Israeli security theory and when pro-American regional forces lost their principal role, with some of them, like Egypt, becoming synonymous with weakness and crisis. Tottering on the brink of collapse, they have lost their ability to play the role of reliable regional allies.

As for the United States, the world now recognizes, as Washington itself has admitted, that it is powerless to wage protracted and comprehensive wars without international cover or financial backing from other nations. Thus the decision to go to war is no longer the outcome of a U.S. will but is subject to conditions outside the control of the United States.

To better grasp the significance of going into Kuwait, it is worth remembering that the United States had planned to destroy Iraq completely and return it to the pre-industrial age as both former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and President Bush had promised. The pan-Arab project embodied by President Saddam Husayn's Iraq in the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah battle and the immortal Mother of Battles is now an established reality that all U.S. decisions have failed and will fail to change. This is so for the simple reason that Iraq's advancement and strength are unrelated to outside factors. They are based on a qualified Iraqi manpower, sound pan-Arab policies, and huge resources that cannot possibly be negated or destroyed.

As we relive the events of that historical day, we can't help telling those who had imagined that it was possible to destroy Iraq with the force of an American decision that they must look at how things stand now. They will then realize that their anti-Iraq policies are sheer folly that will only cause them further difficulties and serious setbacks.

West Said Using Food, Medicine as 'Weapon'

JN0708121994 Baghdad INA in English 1105 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 7, INA—After four years of the imposition of the UN sanctions against Iraq on August 6, 1990, soaring food and medicine prices have been the main complaint of Iraqis who feel that the U.S.-led war in 1991 is still being waged against them.

The embargo on foreign financial transactions, the freezing of Iraqi assets and the ban on Iraqi sales of crude oil have made extremely hard to import all but a small amount of food and badly needed medicines. As a result death toll among children and all ages have increased sharply over the last four years. According to figures published by the Ministry of Health, some 264,738 Iraqi children died for the period August 6, 1990 until April, 1992.

Also a French journalist has reported recently that every week more than two thousand Iraqi children fall victims of the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq. According to the Iraqi Red Crescent society, 80 per cent of all deaths since the imposition of the sanctions have been among youngsters.

Before the imposition of the embargo, between a half and three quarters of a billion dollars used to be spent annually on importing necessary medicine and medical equipment. The government, because of lack of vaccines, was forced to cease its child immunization programme after the sanctions. Health Ministry figures stressed that more patients dying from infectious diarrheal diseases, largely because of their weakened state. While death from such infections was rare in 1990, the death rate for patients suffering from those diseases is currently about 32 per 1,000 cases admitted to hospitals.

A report issued in June, 1994 by the Ministry of Health stated that 4574 Iraqi people died during the month April of 1994 only because of the negative consequences of the ongoing sanctions. The report blamed the rise in mortality rate to the dearth of food and medicines. Children are hit hardest by these sanctions. The report said some 3119 children under the age of five perished because of diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition related diseases in comparison with some 347 children died over the same period in 1989, a year before the imposition of the sanctions.

What makes matter worse, food has emerged as the latest weapon in the aggression against Iraq. Food and their prices have become the main concern of most Iraqis. Prices of foodstuffs fluctuate in response to Western attitude towards Iraq. One can hardly give a fixed price for a food item because the next day prices go up.

Over the past few weeks prices of foodstuffs particularly vegetables have went down slightly following the assumption of premiership by President Saddam Husayn. The president has taken a number of decisions in order to bring down prices of foodstuffs. The president ordered a price list of vegetables to be issued by the Ministry of Agriculture every three days. Also a special committee has been set up to follow prices of vegetables.

The president has also instructed Ba'th Party officials to close down any shop whose owner is not committed to the government-set price list.

Almost all Iraqis know that the parties who claimed that they are not against the people of Iraq are themselves behind the suffering of Iraqis. These parties have not only prolonged the sanctions causing needless deaths, but also tried to deprive the Iraqi people of the right to produce their own food. In 1992 and the following years, U.S. and British warplanes started droping flare balls on Iraq's grain fields burning thousands of tonnes of barley and wheat around the city of Mosul, well-known fields of growing such crops in the country.

Iraq, in fact, has the capability to finance much of its relief needs if the country is allowed to import and export. Yet the four-year old sanctions are still responsible for needless deaths especially among children.

'Izzat Ibrahim Cables Saddam on 'Victory Day'

JN0608151294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Cable of congratulations from 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of Revolution Command Council, on anniversary of the Great Victory Day, 8 August 1988; place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Leader President struggler Saddam Husayn, may God watch over you. As the glorious Iraqis and the esteemed sons of the nation celebrate the anniversary of 8 August 1988, the Great Victory Day—which crowned the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah with a manifest victory over the enemies—it gives me great pleasure to extend to your excellency my best congratulations and wishes that contain the most noble meanings. I beseech God to honor the venerable people of Iraq by bestowing His blessings on you, safeguarding you, and giving you a long life. God is all-hearing, all-answering. [passage omitted]

Mr. Leader President: The plots that have been hatched, and are still being hatched, against our faithful national and pan-Arab march, are continuing with the continuation of the unfair blockade against our struggling people. The blockade is the last card left for the enemies, who have lost all pretexts to justify the continuation of the blockade, save their deep-seated historical grudge against the Iraq of Arabism and Islam.

With your enlightened wisdom, great readiness for the schemes of the enemies, and the moral, material, and principled preparedness on the part of our people, we shall, God willing, deny the enemies a chance to implement their malicious schemes. [passage omitted]

All the sons of the nation are now deeply aware of the unfair stands practiced by the U.S. devil and its collaborators against this rising country. The plans of the enemies to harm our people will find a wise, decisive reply under your valiant leadership. All the well-meaning sons of Arabism and honorable people of the world shall side with us until the enemies are defeated.

Concluding, I wish your excellency and our glorious nation continued happiness and prosperity, pride and glory.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council

Kurdish Radio—Iranian Shelling Kills 'Over 30'

NC0708200894 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1620 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Statement by the Political Bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan on 7 August; read by announcer]

[Text] O struggling Kurdish masses. On 6 August the valiant town of Qal'at Dizah was subjected to artillery shelling carried out by a group of mercenaries of the non-Islamic Movement [derogatory term for the Islamic Movement] and its allies. The shelling was carried out with the support of Iranian artillery and in cooperation with agent 'Abbas Bayiz Agha and his henchmen. The shelling caused the martyrdom of over 30 people, including women, children, and old men, in Qal'at Dizah and Jarawah. Scores of people were also wounded.

This abominable crime is an eternal blot of shame on the agents and mercenaries of the enemies and occupiers of Kurdistan, who planned and carried out this ugly crime which is typical of the crimes of the enemies and occupiers of Kurdistan. This crime proves that subservience to the enemies and occupiers inside or outside Kurdistan by riding on their bandwagon and obeying their orders is not only a high treason to the homeland but also brings catastrophes and misfortunes for our Kurdish people.

Therefore, it is the duty of all patriotic forces, all those who are loyal to the Kurds, and all strugglers for freedom and democracy to confront this ugly crime. Confronting these mercenaries and agents of the occupiers of Kurdistan and foiling their plans is an honorable patriotic, revolutionary act of self defense. Therefore, it is everyone's duty to be fully prepared for this honorable and holy struggle.

In view of this catastrophe which has befallen the heroic town of Qal'at Dizah, we have declared a state of mourning for three days in all media establishments belonging to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], especially in the radio and television establishments. We also urge the brave masses of Kurdistan to hold mourning rites and prayers on this occasion.

Rival Groups Said Clashing

NC0708185394 Paris AFP in English 1718 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Arbil, Iraq, Aug 7 (AFP)—At least 30 civilians were killed in clashes between rival Kurdish groups in northern Iraq, officials on both sides said Sunday.

Some 30 people were wounded in the fighting which broke out Saturday and continued late Sunday between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) led by Jalal Talabani and the Kurdistan Islamic League (KIL), the sources said.

The clashes with heavy weapons raged in the Qal'at Dizah area near the Iranian border.

'Abdullah, a senior member of the pro-Iranian KIL led by Shaykh Abd-al-'Al-Aziz 'Uthman, said the PUK controlled Qal'at Dizah town but the KIL held the northern and eastern outskirts.

Sami Rasul, a member of the PUK, said the KIL was being helped by Iranian forces and was trying to capture Qal'at Dizah.

"They shelled the town and destroyed three blocks of flats, killing all the people inside," he told AFP.

Other Kurdish sources said the KIL was supported by members of Mas'ud Barzani's Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK).

About 100 people died when the DPK and the PUK clashed in May. But they announced an agreement to stop fighting over power-sharing in Paris on July 23.

Two people were killed in fighting a week ago in the al-Sulaymaniyah region near the Iranian border.

Kurds in northern Iraq broke away from Baghdad's control in an uprising against President Saddam Husayn in 1991, after the Gulf war.

Two Youths Killed by U.S. Mine While Swimming

JN0708165294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Al-Basrah, 7 Aug (INA)—Two youths were martyred in the al-'Izz River area in al-Basrah Governorate when a cluster ['unqudiyah] mine, dropped by U.S. aircraft during the sinful 30-state aggression on Iraq, exploded.

A responsible source at the Civil Defense Directorate told the Iraqi News Agency that the two youths, who were brothers and were 12 and 15 years old, died when they crashed into the mine while they were swimming in the al-'Izz River with their companions.

Minister on 'Giant' Industrial Projects

JN0708175194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization, has announced that Iraq is currently implementing several giant industrial projects to contribute to efforts to break the unjust blockade.

Chairing an open seminar attended by several specialists in the industrial sector, Hasan said that the experts of the

Ministry of Industry and Minerals are currently building a giant factory called the Iraqi factory.

Hasan added that this factory would manufacture sensitive equipment and machines like lathes, millers, and smelting furnaces for iron, lead, copper, and other metal, depending on national expertise and potential.

He also said that a major project for producing seeds was being implemented and that another project for manufacturing copper wires was also being implemented for the first time in Iraq. The latter project, he said, would be operational soon.

The minister of industry and minerals pointed out that the specialists have completed studies, research, and the pioneer system for a new huge project for producing oil coal, a second project for producing the five known types of firebricks, in addition to two new types, and other projects for producing agricultural fertilizers and manufacturing television and radio towers of tremendous heights.

Hasan added that next year will witness the production of an Iraqi truck called al-Jahra'. Priority, he added, was given to producing that truck and developing tractors larger than al-Nida' types.

Discharge of Draftees Born in 1973 Announced

JN0508192994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Following an order by His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn, and in observance of the great victory day, the Ministry of Defense will, on 8 August, begin to discharge the first entry of conscripts born in 1973. This was announced by the staff lieutenant general, assistant to the chief of staff for administration, to an INA correspondent.

Those in the second entry, also born in 1973, will be discharged on 22 September to mark Iraq's decisive response to Iran's aggression.

Those in the third entry of conscripts born in 1973 will be discharged on 1 December to mark the [word indistinct] day.

He indicated that absentees and those against whom disciplinary action has been taken and who have not served out their conscription must complete it as prescribed by law.

U.S. Secretary of State Christopher Arrives

Rabin, Christopher To Visit al-'Aqaba

TA0508173894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Excerpt] Another dramatic development is expected on Monday, 8 August: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will visit Jordan for the first time and will confer with King Husayn. This was announced by Jordan's Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani. Rabin will be accompanied by a large Israeli entourage. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik brings us the initial details from our Tel Aviv studio:

It is hard to keep up with the events which keep setting new precedents. For the first time in Israel's history, an Israeli prime minister will overtly cross the border into Jordan and will pay a semi-official visit in al-'Aqabah. The plan is as follows:

Before noon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Crown Prince Hasan will inaugurate the first official border crossing in the 'Arava. Immediately after the ceremony, Rabin, accompanied by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and other Israeli dignitaries, will cross the border and travel to the king's palace in al-'Aqabah, where all the delegates will have lunch. Later there will be a news conference which will be attended, of course, by Israeli journalists.

Feverish contacts are currently under way between Tel Aviv and Amman to coordinate the details of this unexpected development.

The preparations for the opening of the border crossing near Elat, opposite Kibbutz Elot, went into high gear today to have it ready for the passage of tourists immediately after the inauguration ceremony. It must be pointed out that until this morning people on the Israeli side did not believe that Rabin would officially cross into the Jordanian side as early as next Monday. However, King Husayn pleasantly surprised them once again, and not only did he confirm his own participation but also invited all the participants to his palace, thus illustrating his determination to implement the peace, and to do so quickly. [passage omitted]

Meets With Rabin

TA0708064894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Arriving in Israel last night from Egypt, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that Syria has promised to restore calm in South Lebanon. This morning Christopher will meet with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Katzenell] Secretary Christopher arrived in Jerusalem last night from Egypt, and immediately conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Christopher told Rabin he had asked Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad to use his influence with Hizballah to try to restore calm in south Lebanon, and al-Asad had promised to do what he could. Christopher also briefed Rabin on his meeting yesterday with Egypt's President Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Alexandria.

Rabin voiced concern over the failure of the Palestinian Authority to establish an accounting and auditing system which would enable the donor countries to provide the funds which they have promised to the Palestinian autonomy. Rabin feared the lack of funds might even affect the security activities of the Palestinian police, which he regards as vital for the success of the autonomy. Rabin and Christopher discussed arrangements for the opening ceremony at the new crossing point between Israel and Jordan, and for the meeting with King Husayn at his palace in al-'Aqabah. Christopher and the prime minister also discussed the original purpose of Christopher's visit to the Middle East—to promote the peace negotiations between Israel and Syria.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 7 August carries a 200-word report by Menahem Rahat on page 2 adding that in the their meeting last night, "Rabin stressed to Christopher that Israel holds a grave view of the recent incidents on the northern border." Rabin said that "Israel has no intentions of having an escalation in the region, but it reserves the right to terminate the shooting." The report adds that "the prime minister asked Christopher to make it clear to al-Asad that Israel is committed to peace with all its neighbors, but it is also committed to strike at its enemies."]

Israel's Ambassador to Washington Itamar Rabinovich, who is in charge of the negotiations with Syria, said last night no breakthrough could be expected during the Christopher visit. However, there could be substantive progress beyond the first signs that Syria has shown of willingness for a settlement. Rabinovich believes President al-Asad would try to restore calm in south Lebanon, and the quiet that has prevailed there during the night bears this out.

This morning, Christopher will have a meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and this afternoon the secretary of state is expected to leave for Damascus. In addition to the peace process and the fighting in south Lebanon, he is expected to raise in his talks with President al-Asad the issue of international terrorism, in particular the explosions in Buenos Aires and London.

Meets With Peres

TA0708131794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher this morning discussed ways to transfer international aid to the Palestinians. After the meeting, Peres said that Israel ignores neither the Palestinians' economic hardships nor what it is required of Israel to allow the implementation of the autonomy agreement.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin met this morning with the director general of UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency]. The two discussed an idea that would allow the PLO to establish organs for the receipt of the funds earmarked for the autonomy. According to the idea, the moneys from the donor countries will be transferred to the territories through UNRWA. Israel and PLO Chairman 'Arafat tend to accept the offer. Regarding the situation in the north, Secretary Christopher promised to once again talk with President al- Asad about the need to curb Hizballah activity. He emphasized, however, that the solution to the problem can be accomplished only by peaceful means.

After the meeting with Christopher, Minister Peres said that the government is sending a message to Lebanon and Syria, through Warren Christopher, to curb the escalation in the security situation in Lebanon.

Baraq on Expanding IDF Area of Activity

TA0608162294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Today Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq and other senior officers toured the site hit by katyusha rockets early this morning. Lieutenant General Baraq said that there are no simple answers to the katyushas and lauded the resilience of the northern settlements.

He stated that the struggle against Hizballah will continue as long as this organization operates against the security zone and asserted that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will do whatever is necessary. We will have to contemplate the possibility of expanding our area of activity, the chief of staff emphasized.

In his opinion, the katyusha attacks do not represent a Syrian signal. Nevertheless, the Lebanese Government, with Syria's support, could deploy troops in the south and rein in Hizballah, but the question is if and when Beirut and Damascus will decide to do so. The chief of staff's remarks were reported by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Baraq on Lebanon Fighting, Bombing 'Mistake'

TA0708072794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq yesterday said that one must differentiate between the shooting of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in a clash with Hizballah terrorists and the firing of katyusha rockets at the western Galilee. Baraq was speaking during a tour of a western Galilee moshav where katyusha rockets had landed. The firing of the katyushas was a serious incident initiated by Hizballah in reaction to the bombing of Dayr al- Zahrani, the chief of staff said. Baraq clarified that the clash in which the Giv'ati Brigade soldiers were killed was part of the ongoing struggle against the Hizballah organization. Our correspondent Qobi Mandel reports on Lieutenant General Baraq's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Mandel] At the end of an especially hot day along Israel's northern border, during which an IDF officer and a soldier were killed, and three brothers from the western Galilee were injured by a katyusha rocket, the chief of staff arrived at the moshav where the katyusha had landed. Baraq first commented on the clash in which the two soldiers had been killed.

[Baraq] The attack in the eastern sector was part of a different struggle: the battle over the northern corner of the security zone. A Hizballah force, apparently on its way to attack the outpost at al-'Ayshiyah and the road leading to it, ran into an IDF patrol operating in the sector. The encounter took place in very difficult terrain, with rocks and dense foliage. Two of our soldiers were killed in the ensuing fire exchange. I would like to extend my condolences to the Oren and Braslawsky families who lost their sons, who were among the best of our fighters.

[Mandel] As for the firing of katyusha rockets over the weekend, Chief of Staff Baraq said that 25 katyushas had been launched over the weekend, 20 of which had been fired at Israeli territory.

[Baraq] I assume Hizballah considers this a retaliation to our bomb which came loose in Dayr al-Zahrani and killed a number of civilians. The bomb did indeed hit civilians by mistake and we continue to express our regret. This is an organization that methodically initiates attacks against Israeli civilians in order to deter Israel from striking at its bases and terrorists. This is a very serious matter, and we will have to consider how to continue operating here. There are no simple solutions against katyusha rockets. They fly over the security zone and the degree of resilience shown by the residents of the northern settlements is very important. The inner strength demonstrated by the family I have just visited, by the entire moshav, and by all the settlements in northern Israel, will enable us to continue to effectively fight against Hizballah in the future.

[Mandel] The chief of staff noted that the understandings reached with the terrorists following Operation Accountability were still in force, although the firing of katyusha rockets at the western Galilee constituted a clear violation of these understandings. Chief of Staff Baraq also released initial findings from the investigation into the Israel Air Force bombing raid which left a number of Lebanese civilians killed.

[Baraq] The bomb came loose during an air raid on the Jabal Safi area, in which we believe that terrorists who operate against the security zone were also killed. When the plane veered after completing the attack, a bomb which had failed to drop during the raid itself, suddenly came loose. I do not want to get into details with regard to the complex structure of this very sophisticated aircraft or analyze this very rare technical failure which had such serious consequences. We regret what happened. When the internal Air Force investigation is over, we will make sure to take all the necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. We also expressed our apologies and regrets to the Lebanese Government. Nevertheless, we also told them that we would continue to fight Hizballah with all the means at our disposal. This war will continue as long as Hizballah continues to act against Israeli citizens, the residents of the security zone, and the IDF. [end recording]

Rabin, Baraq Expect Tension in North To Subside

TA0708131494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq this morning said that the current escalation on the northern border will gradually subside because it was a reaction to the mistaken Israeli Air Force bombing last week. The two were speaking at the cabinet's weekly session.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur said that, on the face of it, the Hizballah attack is justified because, according to the understandings made after Operation Accountability, they may fire katyushas in retaliation for the killing of civilians in south Lebanon. At the same time, he stressed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the government did everything they could to make it clear to them that it was a mistake.

Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, said today that a war is being waged in the north over the last two months. There is daily fighting and constant activity by the IDF and the terrorists. Gen. Mordekhay noted that the IDF is using all the means at its disposal to protect the northern border.

Weizman-King Husayn Telephone Conversation Reported

TA0708190894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Report by Ya'el Ayalon on telephone conversation between President Ezer Weizman in Jerusalem and Jordan's King Husayn in Amman on 8 August—recorded; Weizman's and Husayn's remarks in English]

[Excerpt] [Ayalon] Tense quiet prevailed this morning among the dozens of journalists and photographers when the president's military secretary dialed the king's number in Amman. After two attempts, King Husayn's voice sounded as clear as a bell in the room.

[Husayn, in progress] ... and I hope that we'll continue to get in touch, and I look forward to seeing you sometime soon.

[Weizman] Up to you, your majesty, any time. You've got an open invitation to Jerusalem, and you just, (?with a two-hour take of time), any time.

[Husayn] Thank you very much indeed. It was very kind of you. I hope it will happen sometime soon.

[Weizman] I hope you, as usual notice, that....

[Ayalon, interrupts, translates, and continues] The two talked for quite a while, a talk which flowed uninterruptedly, except for brief line cuts.

I hope we will be able to travel to Beirut, Damascus, and Baghdad was the thinly veiled hint which President Weizman made to King Husayn.

[Weizman] I hope that we'll be able to do what I used to do as a child, to go to Beirut, to Damascus, and, Inshallah, to Baghdad.

[Husayn] That this will be the... [changes thought] what we are seeing is the breaking... [changes thought] the dawn of peace in our region, and that things will return to normal, or become normal, very very soon, as opposed to what we have been used to for so many years, which has been so abnormal, sadly.

[Weizman] Well, you definitely took a great part in it. You are taking part in this fantastic, historical enterprise, to see this Middle East blooming....

[Ayalon, interrupts and translates] [passage omitted]

Peres on Situation in Lebanon, Peace Talks

TA0708063094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Me'ir Einstein; place not given—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Einstein] What kind of message has Israel already delivered, or intends to deliver, to Damascus following the firing of katyusha rockets at the Galilee?

[Peres] Whereas we made a mistake in the course of our attack in Lebanon and we expressed our sorrow at the death of innocent people, the Lebanese response was intentional and organized—and Syria was undoubtedly in the know. The Syrians must understand that neither negotiations nor normal daily life can be maintained in such a fashion.

[Einstein] Does the fact that the Syrians failed to implement the necessary preventive measures contain some sort of message?

[Peres] You can call it a message but it does not change the fact that what happened here should not have occurred.

[Einstein] Do you expect Secretary of State Warren Christopher to clarify this point in his meeting with President al-Asad in Damascus today?

[Peres] I have no doubt of that. I believe that the secretary understands the issue perfectly and realizes what an unnecessary and untimely shadow this can cast on the negotiations.

[Einstein] On the one hand, we complain that the Syrians are not preventing the firing of katyusha rockets at the Galilee, such as this weekend for example; but, on the other hand, we are also reporting positive signals from Damascus. Is this not a contradiction?

[Peres] The situation itself contains a contradiction. With the Syrians, simultaneously combining a carrot and stick approach could be part of their tactics. This could be said to comprise a contradiction. However, there have nevertheless been encouraging signs and that is new.

[Einstein] The question is when, in your estimate, will these signs be translated into facts on the ground. When will we be able to talk of more concrete developments?

[Peres] Look, the peace train has to overcome many obstacles and problems along the way. When one signal gives the train the green light to leave the station that is good; however, it still does not mean that the rest of the track is cleared.

[Einstein] The prevailing assessment right now is that al-Asad will be in no hurry to accelerate negotiations with us if only because he does not want to appear to be following in King Husayn's footsteps.

[Peres] There may be some truth in that assessment; however, al-Asad also realizes that there is a timetable that must be observed. Developments do not wait for leaders to be in the appropriate mood. I hope we all realize that the sooner we resolve our differences, the better we will be serving the interests our respective peoples.

[Einstein] Is prior agreement with the Syrians a precondition for any arrangement with Lebanon? Is there no other way?

[Peres] In my opinion, Lebanon is not fully independent and all its actions—certainly in the field of security and defense—are under clear Syrian influence, if not control.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, you and the prime minister will tomorrow be the guests of King Husayn in al-'Aqabah. When will the king visit Israel?

[Peres] Look, that depends on the king. As far as we are concerned he is welcome to half the kingdom [metaphorically speaking]. He can come whenever he wants. He will always be a welcome and honored visitor. I think that since his appearance in Washington, the king has gained a lot of popularity in Israel. The Israeli public had the opportunity of seeing a real-life king on their television sets. I think he gained the trust of a lot of people. Look, gaining the support of 91 Knesset members is not a daily occurrence.

[Einstein] According to some reports published today, he will already visit next week.

[Peres] Yes, I heard these reports but I have no information about that.

[Einstein] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Peres.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 7 August also carries a live interview with Foreign Minister Peres. When asked in the interview whether Israel has pushed PLO Yasir 'Arafat to the sidelines following the progress made with Jordan and the developments on the other tracks, Peres says: "I believe that we have no intention of abandoning or ignoring the Palestinian side. We are definitely interested in the success of the autonomy process in the Gaza Strip and Jericho because this constitutes a serious attempt to establish new relations, which in my opinion are today no less important than fixed borders. We will continue to cultivate our relations with the Palestinian side without any hesitation."]

Peres on Syria, Exit Permits for Yemeni Jews

TA0808064794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by 'Ido Baum and Tamar Landau on 8 August; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Baum] Earlier this morning, we spoke with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. In our first question, we sought to clarify whether today's ceremonies have any practical significance.

[Peres] The peace process also has a public and psychological side. It is important that both peoples see that there is a true meeting of hearts and not just a rapprochement in positions, and today's meeting undoubtedly demonstrates this fact.

[Baum] Mr. Peres, there is talk of some clandestine developments against the background of the recent progress with Jordan. I am referring to possible developments on the Syrian track. Perhaps one of the reasons for the king's readiness to hold public meetings was a certain fear on his part that something is really cooking between Israel and its northern neighbor? Is there any truth to this?

[Peres] I think both sides are making serious efforts to overcome the existing gaps between our respective positions. This task demands a great deal of thought and perhaps also time. We have still not reached the beginning of the road, however.

[Baum] Foreign Minister Peres, there were reports this morning from official or semiofficial Yemeni sources according to which all the Jews there will be permitted to emigrate to Israel. Can you confirm these reports?

[Peres] No. Just like you, I heard these reports only this morning. I know that negotiations are under way. If this is the indeed the case, we should all be happy, as it would constitute an important development. [passage omitted]

[Baum] I would like to ask you about the next stage in Israel's relations with Jordan. A peace treaty still has to be formulated and signed. Do you believe that the dynamism that has characterized the Jordanian-Israeli track over the past two weeks will continue, leading to a real peace treaty with all that this entails between the two countries within a short period?

[Peres] Before one embarks on the road to peace, officials are generally very concerned about the public's reaction. In my opinion, in this case the public's reaction was even more positive than both parties expected. I believe, therefore, that the negotiations with Jordan will gather additional momentum. I cannot give you any dates; however, I hope that things will proceed more rapidly than originally planned or anticipated.

Rabin, 'Arafat Reportedly To Discuss Jerusalem Holy Sites

TA0808073394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the Erez checkpoint on 10 August.

Qol Yisra'el in Arabic correspondent Sa'id Mu'adi reports that the two men will discuss the economic difficulties of the Palestinian Authority and the ramifications of the agreement with Jordan on the Islamic holy sites in East Jerusalem.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0724 GMT on 8 August reports that "according to the most authoritative sources at the prime minister's bureau, no meeting is expected between Prime Minister Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on Wednesday."]

Cabinet Discusses Gaza Economic Crisis, Defense Budget

TA0708173394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] At the weekly cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the economic stress in Gaza and Jericho would be solved only when the Palestinians set up an accountable administration which will enable the donor countries to provide the financial aid which they have promised.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said the very positive developments in Israel's relations with Jordan have cast a shadow over the Palestinians, and may even force them into a corner. He said it is in Israel's interests to show more consideration for the Palestinians—her partners in the Oslo and Cairo agreements—and the government should consider providing emergency aid in areas such as health care.

Before leaving Israel, Secretary Christopher had meetings with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin and the director of the UN's Relief Works Agency [UNRWA]. One of the suggestions made was that the aid from the donor countries to the Palestinians be channeled through UNRWA.

The government will continue its discussion on budget priorities on Wednesday. At today's session, Finance Minister Shohat complained of the pressures brought by the defense establishment to get extra allocations. He was especially critical of the Army's threat to close down a military airfield if it did not get more money. Ministers were told that there was only a 2 percent room for going over the budget of 113.7 billion shekels.

Autonomy Officials To Cross Into Israel Freely

TA0708171994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Several hundreds personages and senior officials in Gaza and Jericho will receive from Israel documents which will enable them to cross into Israel and the Judaea and Samaria areas as well as cross the Jordan bridges. The holders of these documents will not be held up at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Israel Police roadblocks.

Jordan Given Larger Share of al-Yarmuk Waters

TA0808102494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Aug 94 p A4

[Report by 'Amiram Kohen]

[Excerpt] According to a communique issued by the Water Commission, Israel has been pumping water from al-Yarmuk River since 4 August and channeling it to Jordan. This will give Jordan 4 million cubic meters more of al-Yarmuk waters this year beyond its share according to the temporary agreement between the two countries.

The water was transferred at Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's instructions as a goodwill gesture to King Husayn, because Jordan is suffering from a severe water shortage following this year's dry winter. During previous years, even before the beginning of the official rapprochement between the two countries, Israel funneled an additional 2-3 million cubic meters to Jordan annually during arid years.

The additional water will flow to the two largest cities in Jordan, Amman and Irbid, and be used for drinking purposes. Water Commissioner Gid'on Tzur noted that the water increment is for a limited period of several months and does not constitute a precedent for the water agreements that will be signed by the two countries. [passage omitted]

Deputy Health Minister Views Jerusalem Issue

NC0608203594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Health Minister Nawwaf Masalihah, in Nazareth, by Shadyah Riyad, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Talking Newspaper" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Riyad] Do you think that the [Palestinian] autonomy agreement is in danger?

[Masalihah] No it is not in danger but it has been delayed. In the latest talks in Cairo, they almost reached agreement on health, culture, education, communications, and many more issues. If the agreement has faltered this does not mean it has failed.

There is another point: I hope the Israeli-Jordanian agreement, which I approve of and encourage, will not be at the Palestinians' expense. This is what President 'Arafat fears. Take the holy sites for example. It it true that Jordan has been responsible for them for the last 40 or 46 years, including 27 years of Israeli occupation.

However, we must not give Israel or any other country an opportunity to exploit the situation. There has to be a Palestinian-Jordanian agreement on the holy sites. We, the Arabs, are not competing against each other, because the holy sites belong to all of us, Muslims and Christians alike. This is another point on which President 'Arafat has fears, but I am sure that the Jordanian-Israeli peace will not be at the Palestinians' expense.

[Riyad] Raising the Jerusalem issue at this time and in this manner in the Declaration of Principles between Jordan and Israel has raised many doubts and fears about Israel's aims and intentions regarding Jerusalem. King Husayn and some Jordanian officials have made statements on this issue. Do you believe that these statements affirming Palestinian political authority over Jerusalem have dispelled Palestinian fears about Jerusalem?

[Masalihah] They did not dispel any fears. It was not a coincidence that our Palestinian brothers and the Israelis, as well as President Mubarak in the Cairo agreement—the signing of which I personally attended—postponed the Jerusalem question. Had Israel and the Palestinians begun with Jerusalem first, the Oslo and Cairo agreements would not have been reached.

Jerusalem is a difficult problem with national and pan-Arab implications. According to the Declaration of Principles, they should discuss the Jerusalem issue after two years. I believe that Rabin and the Israeli Government will not agree to discuss Jerusalem's political future before the two years are over.

As I see it, the problem clearly is assisting the Palestinian people in building their institutions. The next two years should not be utilized in frustrating President 'Arafat and the Palestinians, nor in disputes between the Jordanians and Palestinians, but by building a Palestinian state and helping the Palestinian nation. [passage omitted]

Saddam Reportedly Offers Israel 'Enticements'

TA0608155794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 5 Aug 94 pp 2, 3

[Article by No'omi Levitzky: "Saddam Wants, Too"]

[Excerpt] The Middle East is a strange place. There is never a dull moment. On the one hand, there are peace talks and historic reconciliations, and on the other hand, Iranian terror bares its fangs. This week, which marks the fourth anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the item making the headlines is Iraq.

On one of Iraq's borders, Jordan is conducting a major reconciliation with the West and getting closer to Israel. On another border, Iran is moving yet another step farther from the free world. As things stand now, Iraq, agonizing under an international boycott, wants to join the party. Indeed, at a time when the argument has been heating up in Washington over whether the sanctions against Iraq should or should not be called off, Israel has been receiving messages from Saddam Husayn about his wish to join the peace process.

It turns out that just like other Arab leaders before him, Saddam Husayn has discovered that the shortest way to Washington recently has been through Jerusalem. Judging by the messages he has been sending, he is also prepared to pay the price.

Iraq's current move began about four months ago. Saddam then sent feelers through a third party (the representative of another Arab country) to check whether it would be possible to make direct contact with Israel, whether Rabin would agree to launch direct contacts between the two countries.

That initiative was nipped in the bud, and Israel's response at that time was negative. Everybody was fearful of what the U.S. reaction might be. The mention of contacts with Saddam makes Clinton see red.

The messages resumed a few weeks ago. King Husayn's visit to Washington and his pictures with Clinton on the White House lawn apparently convinced Saddam that there is something to talk about. After all, Clinton had already given an audience to 'Arafat, who backed Iraq in the Gulf war. Then it was King Husayn's turn to be forgiven. So, he tried again.

This time Saddam worked on two fronts. He saw to the organization of a lobby in Washington to promote the termination of the boycott of Iraq. At the same time, he sent a package of enticements to Jerusalem, which included an arrangement with Israel. The main points of the package are: the opening of Iraqi interest offices in Israel and Israeli interest offices in Baghdad; the overt sale of Iraqi oil to Israel; a public Iraqi declaration that it has no territorial claims against either Kuwait or any other country; with the exception of Iran; an Iraqi declaration that it has no dispute with Syria.

In exchange, Israel is supposed to persuade the United States to call off the sanctions against it and allow U.S. businessmen to invest in Baghdad.

It is unclear whether Israel relayed this message to the Americans, but last week the public debate in Washington over the boycott of Iraq became very heated.

A political source confirmed this week that a senior Israeli recently met in Europe with a senior Iraqi security figure. This came from a single source, and nobody would confirm it. Everybody categorically denied it.

According to the same source, on the eve of the talks with Jordan at 'En 'Avrona, the senior Israeli met with a very senior official of the Iraqi security service. The source says that in that meeting, Iraq gave its blessing to the developments between Jordan and Israel, offered to join the peace process, and submitted its proposal for an arrangement.

The Iraqi security official, the same source went on to say, asked that Israel relay Iraq's proposal to the Americans. In exchange for calling off the sanctions, he said, Iraq would be willing to allay the fears of Saudi Arabia and all the Gulf states and publicly declare that it no longer has any territorial claims in Kuwait and that it is prepared to recognize its existence.

Most of the sources I contacted this week, including those who denied the meeting in Europe, confirmed that an Iraqi proposal indeed exists. "We have been getting messages in such a spirit," a source dealing with the issue told me. "They are constantly shoving a carrot under our nose as bait," another source said.

From Israel's point of view, Iraq is a tough one. The Scuds that landed on us three and a half years ago are still fresh in our minds. The wound has undoubtedly not healed. The Home Front Command's television commercials urging Israelis to replace their gas masks are a constant reminder of serious traumas. Nevertheless, the Iraqi option has quite a few supporters in Israel.

More than the Iraqi problem, Israel is worried about the Iranian threat. In view of the recent wave of terror instigated by the ayatollahs from Tehran, it is increasingly felt that the total isolation of Iran, even at the cost of some form of reconciliation with Iraq, could prove worthwhile.

"It all depends on the United States," a senior political source said. "We cannot go against the Americans, certainly not on an issue that is so important to them. We also have serious problems with the Iraqis. For example, we are not totally convinced that the UN verification of the nonconventional weapons in Iraq is foolproof. We do not believe that Iraq's nuclear venture is over.

"Had there been no problem with the Americans, I would be in favor of responding to the Iraqi approach, both because of Iran and because this would definitely make the Syrians accelerate the pace of the peace process." [passage omitted]

'Low-Level' Contacts With Iraq Reported

TA0708191494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Telephone conversation between Ya'aqov Eylon in the studio and political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen in Elat—live]

[Text] [Eylon] We would like to discuss Iraq with you, as mentioned also in President Weizman's telephone talk with King Husayn. There was talk of Israeli-Iraqi contacts recently. Is this serious?

[Rosen] First, Ya'aqov, Weizman is indeed one of those people who have pushed for a long time toward rapprochement with Baghdad. There are several others like him in the political and security establishment, only they are very afraid to talk for fear of the Americans. As for contacts between Israelis and Iraqis, as far as we could check, reference so far is only to meetings between Uri Lubrani and a few, very low-level Iraqi businessmen, still not anything which can be pointed to as a political signal between Iraq and Israel. Saddam Husayn has not had his say yet.

[Eylon] This is not so compatible with what the Americans want, as raised in Christopher's talk in Jerusalem today too—what they call the dual containment [last two words in English] of both Iran and Iraq, right?

[Rosen] This dual containment issue—Shim'on Peres and Warren Christopher discussed it today indeed, but we have quite interesting news in this context. Over the last few days Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke over the telephone with several European leaders, including the German chancellor, asking, almost demanding, that they sever economic ties with Iran, that they begin imposing economic sanctions on Iran. Europe is not a party to the U.S. dual containment policy, and now, in coordination with Bill Clinton, Rabin has directly appealed to the West European leaders, requiring that they join the effort of economically stifling Iran, as part of the worldwide war against the terror which Iran operates.

[Eylon] Thank you 'Imanu'el Rosen in Elat.

Paper Profiles Ultraorthodox Organization

TA0708180294 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 5 Aug 94 pp 14, 15

[Article by Yosi Walter: "The Ultraorthodox Patrol and Its War Against the Excavations"]

[Text] A month and a half ago, Yosi Levi, an archaeologist at the Antiquities Authority's central district, discovered that his telephone had been tapped. He come upon it by accident, when he took his answering machine to the shop to be repaired. The technician heard strange rapping sounds in the cassette. He checked them out and concluded that somebody had tapped the phone. After agonizing over the matter, Levi decided not to lodge a complaint with the police. Instead, he made a point of informing people phoning him at home that their conversation would be wiretapped. A few days later, the line was checked again and found to be clean.

Levi was not surprised by this event. Like many of his fellow archaeologists in the Antiquities Authority, he has become used to the idea that somebody is out to get them and that the methods being used are growing less subtle with time. Anonymous callers phone them at home in the wee hours of the night to threaten them and their relatives.

The latest victim was archaeologist Radwan Badhi. Anonymous phone calls were made to his and his girlfriend's homes. Among other things, the caller or callers threatened to reveal some embarrassing information. Badhi, a Muslim Arab, panicked. In other cases, archaeologists had the tires of their cars slashed and the locks filled with contact glue. The climax came this week with the publication of a heinous leaflet listing the addresses, phone numbers, and license plate numbers of the archaeologists working at the Antiquities Authority. Now they are truly worried. They know very well that they are up against a serious adversary who is not fooling around. This leaflet actually puts their lives in danger, and somebody might really get hurt.

The police have never found out who is harassing the archaeologists, just as they will probably not uncover who wrote the leaflet. It is clear to everybody, however, that the perpetrators are ultraorthodox Jews who have been waging a merciless war against the archaeologists and the government, against what they term the desecration of Jewish graves at archaeological digs. These Jews are motivated and orchestrated by a single organization, whose name occasionally makes the news and creates a stir: Atra Qadisha.

This organization cannot be ignored. Reality shows that nobody—neither the Religious Affairs Ministry nor the chief rabbis and leaders of the ultraorthodox sects—will dare take any step without the approval of Atra Qadisha, a small but very powerful nonprofit society which has become the right-wing end player in the battle over the archaeological excavations.

Atra Qadisha was founded in 1959 by Ze'ev Soloveichik, the rabbi of Brisk, after the Religious Affairs Ministry began building a monument near Maimonides' grave in Tiberias. Graves were uncovered in the course of the work. The Religious Affairs Ministry claimed these were not Jewish graves, but the rabbis of Tiberias raised hell. Rabbi 'Amram Bloy, the leader of the Natorey Qarta sect, immediately showed up at the head of a group of ultraorthodox Jews. This operation triggered a series of reactions and protests from Jewish organizations around the world. The Religious Affairs Ministry gave in and the excavations were called off.

In the aftermath of this incident, the rabbi of Brisk decided to set up a nonprofit society to protect Jewish graves and appointed Rabbi David Mikha'el Schmidel from Bene Beraq to head it.

The 57-year-old Schmidel was born in Austria and graduated from the Hazon Ish Yeshiva in Bene Beraq (the bastion of extremist ultraorthodox Jews of Lithuanian extraction). In the first few years, he operated in total anonymity. He was unknown and had no influence. Archaeologists dismissed him and would shoo him away whenever he arrived at an excavation site to check the situation and pester them with questions. Schmidel proved to be stubborn and determined, however. He fought practically alone. After the Six-Day War, he found out that the Jerusalem highway ran over several burial sites on the Mount of Olives. Schmidel hastened to inform the Religious Affairs Ministry and the Hevra Qadisha burial society, but they did nothing. One night, he went with his men to the site and dug out a section of the road. The operation was funded by Knesset Member Menahem Porush.

For many years, Atra Qadisha survived on contributions of the Satmar community in New York and donations of other ultraorthodox bodies in Israel. These sources dried up in recent years, however, because of the financial crisis that befell the Satmar community, among other reasons. Schmidel immediately made an about- face and began raising donations from individuals, mooching from door to door. Consequently, one can safely assume that there was an ulterior motive behind the operations in Modi'in and Yafo. The media uproar surrounding such operations increases the flow of donations, not to mention that the High Holidays are approaching and money is short.

Other ultraorthodox bodies dealing with the same issue, such as the Committee for the Preservation of Ancient Graves or the Toldot Aharon Yeshiva, which invested a lot of money in the restoration of ancient graves, are quite opposed to this mooching. After all, money that goes to Atra Qadisha does not go to them, and the vast publicity gained by Atra Qadisha pushes them to the sidelines. As always happens with disputes in the ultraorthodox world, a smear campaign was launched against Schmidel. He was accused of being conciliatory and of making deals with archaeologists on matters on which no concessions are possible. Schmidel soon read the writing on the wall and radicalized his positions. Today he makes no compromises. Even in places where it is clear that there are no Jewish graves, such as Modi'in and Yafo, he makes no concessions. Using the pretext of "reasonable doubt," any grave uncovered is a Jewish grave as far as he is concerned.

"We are opposed to unearthing the dead from their graves, even if they are not Jews," says Schmidel. "From the Jewish point of view, it is indecent to unearth the dead from their graves. In addition to that, I do not believe the archaeologists. Nobody has proved that the graves in Modi'in do not belong to Jews. The archaeologists themselves are not entirely sure about it. Even in Jerusalem's Mamila compound, they claimed that these were not Jewish graves, but ultimately the opposite turned out to be the case."

Admittedly, Schmidel managed to neutralize the opposition and gain a prominent place in the community with a great deal of determination, faith, and perseverance, as well as no small degree of skill. His supporters today include Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, Chief Rabbi Baqshi-Doron, and the ultraorthodox factions in the Knesset. Although they are unanimous in their opposition to the desecration of the dead, they do not really want to get involved in the issue.

Schmidel does his job on a large scale. For example, a few years ago, he joined Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef on a trip to Egypt to meet with President Mubarak. Schmidel, who accompanied him as an adviser on cemetery affairs, did not waste any time and began lobbying the Egyptian housing minister to change the route of a road bypassing Cairo, which was slated to pass through a Jewish cemetery. The Egyptians agreed to discuss the matter only if they were presented with an alternative plan. Schmidel immediately hired U.S. engineers and paid them some $50,000 to plan a new road.

The U.S. Administration was also enlisted to the cause. Following pressure exerted by the Satmar community in the United States, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo was instructed to extend his assistance. The engineers, the ambassador, and Schmidel sat with the Egyptians to explain the new plan. The pressure bore fruit, and the work was halted until a solution was found: small bridges with unexcavated foundations would be built in certain sections of the road. Today, Schmidel recounts proudly, Atra Qadisha representatives are in Cairo to oversee the work.

This operation raised Schmidel's prestige even higher. In recent years, he managed to elevate Atra Qadisha to a status that would make any executive body proud. Atra Qadisha is a hierarchical body headed by Schmidel and other functionaries. One of the most prominent of these is Rabbi Ze'ev Berlin, who is in charge of raising funds abroad. After the functionaries come the field men, the scouts. These are equipped with state-of-the-art gear: jeeps, radio equipment, cellular phones, fax machines, and sophisticated frequency scanners with which they monitor the networks of the archaeologists and the police and learn where work is taking place. The scouts gather information not just by visiting excavation sites but with the help of a highly sophisticated intelligence network. Antiquities Authority workers and archaeologists tip them off and phone them as soon as anything is uncovered at any given site. "They have informers in the Antiquities Authority. After all, money is no problem for them," archaeologist Yosi Levi sadly says.

The leaflet published this week is a clear example of how deeply the ultraorthodox have infiltrated the Antiquities Authority. There should ostensibly be no problem in getting the telephone numbers of the authority's employees. Every office of the Antiquities Authority contains a booklet with the employees' telephone numbers and addresses. What set off alarms at the Antiquities Authority was the fact that the leaflet includes details that do not appear in the booklet: such as, for example, the type of car each employee drives. Antiquities Authority Spokesperson Efrat Orbach discovered that her name was also on the distinguished list, but the address on the leaflet was that of her parents. This data could only be found in the computers of the authority's wages department. Someone pulled the information out of there. The Antiquities Authority is now investigating who divulged the data on the list, and is examining the possibility of lodging a complaint with the police.

When a grave in which there is a possibility that bones will be found is unearthed, head scout Yisra'el Eisenbach summons Shim'on Anshin, who is an archaeological expert. The latter checks whether there are subterranean chambers and determines whether the excavations can be continued. Until this very day, the measurement procedure is very primitive and based on elements from the Cabala. We, at any rate, fail to understand the method: two poles are inserted into the cave, and if they meet in an imaginary line, then that means there are bones. Now, Schmidel reveals, they are examining the possibility of purchasing modern equipment.

When problems arise, Atra Qadisha calls in the troops. Sometimes these are ultraorthodox men from Bene Beraq, backed by members of the Natorey Qarta sect, and sometimes the forces come from Jerusalem, and are reinforced by Bene Beraq residents. If the situation heats up, death threats are also made against the archaeologists. One should recall the dud charge planted several years ago at the home of Amir Drori, the director general of the Antiquities Authority. Over the past year, the Antiquities Authority building in Jerusalem's Rockefeller Museum was evacuated twice. Two vehicles belonging to the Antiquities Authority were also torched.

The tracks never lead to Atra Qadisha. An anonymous organization, which calls itself Qeshet, always assumes responsibility, and finding the perpetrators is like finding a needle in a haystack. Even the police admit that investigations inside the ultraorthodox community, constitute a difficult, almost impossible task. Rabbi Schmidel told us that he was not familiar with any organization known as Qeshet. Atra Qadisha, he stressed, did not engage in threats. "We are talking about a large public, and I would not be surprised if it includes some people with their own methods," he said.

Atra Qadisha repeatedly proves that is a veritable empire with connections spanning the globe. Every time there is a new incident, archaeologists receive faxes from foreign embassies protesting the desecration of graves. The organization has representatives abroad. They are active in Europe and the United States, and have also begun operating in Eastern Europe in recent years. The organization has no problem getting ultraorthodox crowds into the street, as they proved last week when tens of thousands of people demonstrated in Jerusalem.

It transpires, however, that the holy war waged by the ultraorthodox, is free of any ulterior motives only when it involves to sites coveted by the secular public. When things pertain to the ultraorthodox themselves, practical considerations are taken into account. For example, Atra Qadisha did not protest when work began two years ago on the construction of a large ultraorthodox neighborhood in Rekhes Shu'fat. Jewish graves from the period of the second temple were discovered there. Atra Qadisha's men came, looked around, and said nothing. The same thing happened near Moshav Mazor near Petah Tiqva and at another site called El'ad, which is situated between Rosh Ha'ayin and Shoham. Jewish graves were also discovered at these two locations but no fuss was made.

Schmidel claims these are all lies disseminated by the Antiquities Authority. "Let them show me one grave in those areas. One grave was found in Shu'fat where a solution was found: a small bridge was erected," he says.

In the cases of Modi'in, Yafo, and other sites, Schmidel and his men know how to exert pressure on sensitive points. Both the Modi'in and Yafo cases involve huge construction projects. Any delay means heavy losses to the state and the entrepreneurs, as well as to a public anxiously awaiting the thousands of apartments slated to be built in Modi'in. When there is somebody to pressure, achievements can be attained. This pressure is being exerted by clever manipulation of the political situation. SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] has been out of the coalition for almost a year and its prestige in the ultraorthodox world is on the wane. Now it wants to reconquer its place, and the way to do this is by radicalizing its positions on religious issues, including the issue of archaeological excavations. Now, after the archaeological war has been renewed, Der'i came to Rabin and asked with alarm what will people say if SHAS returns to a government which supports the desecration of graves. The prime minister was forced to intervene, and Police Minister Moshe Shahal was forced to order the police commissioner not to provide protection to the archaeologists in Yafo and Modi'in and to issue edicts for halting work in these sites.

The solution was contained in the attorney general's statement of opinion to the government. It provided the umbrella for completing work in Yafo. The ultraorthodox circles, however, now marked Attorney General Ben-Ya'ir and his opinion as a target, and the war is now being waged on the Modi'in battlefield.

Construction and Housing Minister Ben-Eli'ezer is greatly alarmed by this situation. Modi'in is the ministry's main project and is supposed to solve the problem of housing shortages and rising costs. Already today contractors have licenses for building 6,000 housing units, and by the end of the year Ben-Eli'ezer plans to license 15,000 more housing units. The current war has delayed the entire project, a thing which caused Ben-Eli'ezer to blow up with anger. He ran to the prime minister, argued with Shahal, but to no avail. Coalition matters take precedence.

Meanwhile Rabbi Baqshi-Doron aired a compromise proposal, but Ben-Eli'ezer remains skeptical. During a meeting last week with Ministers Shahal, Liba'i, and Rubinstein he aired a question which nobody could answer: "Who can guarantee that Baqshi-Doron's compromise would be accepted by the entire ultraorthodox world?" Ben-Eli'ezer warned that this is a surrender to SHAS and the ultraorthodox sector. He said that the Construction and Housing Ministry is building in dozens of locations, and after all there are graves all over Israel. A solution has been found in Modi'in: No housing units will be built on the nine graves which have been discovered. What will happen, however, in other locations? Ben-Eli'ezer claims this is total capitulation. Tomorrow graves will be found in other places, and the conclusion is that no housing units and roads should be built anywhere.

In another session with the prime minister, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer made it clear he would make concessions wherever possible. In other places, however, it will be very difficult for him to surrender to compromises and dictates. "I am the one who has to explain the housing situation to the public. I shoulder this responsibility," he said.

It looks as though this grave war is not over by a long shot. As Rabbi Schmidel puts it: "We will go all the way from Metulla to Elat."

Egyptian Delegation Holds Talks on Regional Transport

TA0808104694 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Aug 94 p 1

[ITIM report]

[Text] Egypt has expressed interest in opening the border crossings at Nizzana and Rafah to trucks, even though the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel does not permit truck traffic across the border, the Transport Ministry announced yesterday.

Transport Minister Yisra'el Qeysar said he was informed of this by an aide to the Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Ra'uf Sa'ad.

Sa'ad is heading a visiting Egyptian delegation that yesterday had meetings at the ministry to discuss the integration of all regional transportation systems into one system.

This system would include a network of highways that would lead from one country to another, including a highway from Cairo to Damascus that would run through Israel along the planned Trans-Israel Highway.

Canada's Envoy Summoned on Refugee Status to Immigrants

TA0508122294 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by 'Ada Kohen, and Avino'am Bar-Yosef in Washington]

[Text] Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Eytan Bentzur summoned Canadian Ambassador Norman Spector to his office this week and expressed Israel's displeasure over the awarding of refugee status to former immigrants from the CIS who had left Israel for Canada.

The immigrants who reached Canada claimed that they had been persecuted in Israel. This, in order to receive refugee status.

Sources in Canada reported that the decision to grant refugee status was the prerogative of a public committee which did not accept directives from the government. Sources in Ottawa said that the committee received approximately 1,000 applications from former immigrants and the inclination was to approve them.

Sergio Marchi, the Canadian Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, himself an immigrant from Argentina, addressing this matter, said that Israel's intervention in Canada's immigration policy was the same as Saddam Husayn intervening in the absorption of Iraqi refugees in Israel. Israel did not like this comparison and Marchi hastened to apologize.

Syrian Citizen Reportedly Seeks Political Asylum

JN0708161494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] According to security sources in the security zone in south Lebanon, a Syrian citizen today surrendered himself to a southern Lebanese Army patrol in al-Shumariyah in the central sector of the security zone and asked for political asylum in Israel.

These sources are quoted by news agency reports as saying the 27- year-old man, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir, was born in Aleppo.

He told investigators he served with the militia of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and was once active within the Shiite Amal Movement. He was also involved in subversive actions in south Lebanon.

According to another account, he once served in the Syrian military.

'Abd-al-Qadir decided to seek refuge in Israel because the Syrian authorities failed to meet the cost of his medical bill and forced him to work in the Lebanese construction sector.

Report Says Jerusalem City Limits Arab Construction

TA0508112594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Aug 94 p A4

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] An internal Jerusalem Municipality report detailing a policy of "limiting housing development of the Arab sector" in the city has been obtained by THE JERUSALEM POST.

The report, from just before Mayor Ehud Olmert took office but according to senior city officials still relevant today, reveals that since 1967 only 12 percent of new homes built in the city were for Arabs.

"The Arab population in Jerusalem suffers from a severe housing shortage. That shortage is the direct result of a planning policy limiting Arab building in Jerusalem," the report states.

It states that the attempt to keep down the Arab population by restricting building has largely failed, and that as a percentage of the total population the Arab population of the city continues to grow.

"The policy makers...failed to take into consideration, for whatever reason, that restricting construction, does not lower the birth rate and the (illegal) immigration from the West Bank (Hebron area) to Jerusalem."

The report, titled "The Housing Shortage in Jerusalem's Arab Sector," details three central measures taken by the city to keep down housing construction for Arab residents, largely through restrictive zoning in their neighborhoods.

Zoning plans for Arab neighborhoods normally allow for less construction per meter than in Jewish neighborhoods and rarely permit high rise buildings, the report states.

Large areas of eastern Jerusalem are also zoned as "green areas" off-limits to development, in order to prevent the expansion of Arab neighborhoods, according to the report. The city spokesman was unavailable for comment.

Mayor Ehud Olmert in recent statements has vowed to ease the housing crunch in the Arab sector of the city, blaming the situation on his predecessor, Teddy Kollek.

However, no specific plans for Arab housing development in eastern Jerusalem have yet been announced by the municipality.

The report also addresses the state's policy towards Arab housing in Jerusalem, saying consecutive governments have limited and continue to limit the construction of new homes in the Arab sector.

"Given this policy, it should not be a surprise that the wave of illegal construction in the Arab sector grows from day to day," the report states. It does not, however, give figures on illegal construction.

Preparations for Test Launching of Ofeq Satellite

TA0508131194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Aug 94 p A6

[Report by defense correspondent Sharon Sade]

[Excerpts] Defense establishment sources are hoping that at the next test launching of the Ofeq spy satellite, scheduled for the end of the year, the project's directors will succeed in overcoming the technical difficulties they encountered during previous test launchings.

If the experiment succeeds, Israel will enhance its capability to gather strategic intelligence on developments in Arab countries. Senior government officials will examine the political and military ramifications of the launching before the final approval is given. If the test launching proves a failure, then the defense establishment will conduct a reevaluation of the project's economic viability. The project has already cost hundreds of millions of dollars. [passage omitted]

Due to the high production and launching costs, which run into tens of millions of dollars, and the technical difficulties encountered so far, there are disagreements among defense establishment officials regarding the advisability of developing and acquiring a military satellite. There is also some doubt with regard to the intelligence capability of a lone satellite sent into space. To receive ongoing information from space on developments in hostile countries, a number of satellites must be launched. This is economically unfeasible at the present stage. [passage omitted]

Husayn-'Arafat Jerusalem Visit Proposed

JN0708193094 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 6-7 Aug p 1

[Excerpt] Official sources told AKHIR KHABAR that His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Jerusalem is purely a Jordanian affair and has no political meaning.

The sources added that the visit—when decided by King Husayn—will be a purely religious one that has no links with negotiations arrangements.

AKHIR KHABAR learned that the contacts are under way between the Palestinians and Israelis, on the one hand, and the Palestinians and Jordanians, on the other, on the subject of Jerusalem.

Informed sources said the Palestinians proposed an idea of a joint visit to Jerusalem by His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat within the framework of an old Israeli proposal to the Palestinians. The sources said no Jordanian commitment had been made on this subject as of last night. [passage omitted]

Opening Ceremony for New Border Crossing Detailed

JN0508160894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has detailed the arrangements for next Monday's [8 August] opening of the border crossing between Jordan and Israel near al-'Aqabah. The ceremony will be attended by His Majesty King Husayn, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and a large number of officials.

The minister spoke to our correspondent:

[Begin al-'Anani recording] There will two occasions on Monday, one in the morning at the site of crossing point between Jordan and Israel, some 3 km north of al-'Aqabah. His Highness Prince Hasan, who will escort Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Secretary Christopher, will cut the ribbon. Each will make a five-minute speech at the site. A number of Jordanian officials, particularly the ministers whose departments are associated with the crossing point, will attend. So will representatives of the sectors that will be using it, including the minister of tourism, seeing that the crossing will essentially serve third country nationals, mostly tourists.

After the morning ceremonies, His Majesty King Husayn will meet with both Rabin and Christopher. His Highness Prince Hasan and the prime minister, will also attend, along with other Jordanian officials . [end recording]

[Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic at 1500 GMT on 5 August adds: "Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said that a round of talks is to be held in the afternoon. For Jordan, the session will be attended by His Majesty King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and other officials. The Israeli delegation will include Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his delegation will also attend the talks. After the talks, His Majesty King Husayn and his guests will take questions from journalists. His majesty and the guests will then gc on a sea excursion in the Gulf of Aqaba."]

Statement on Ceremony

JN0508192494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, has said that a ceremony will be held next Monday [8 August] for the opening of the border crossing between Jordan and Israel in southern Jordan near al-'Aqabah. [passage omitted]

The minister explained certain issues related to the opening of the border crossing, and said the opening will be in implementation of the Washington Declaration. He said the site of the crossing has been carefully studied, but at present, and before the borders are finally demarcated, this crossing cannot be considered part of the line that divides Jordan and Israel.

The minister said in this context, the flags will not be hoisted and the official celebrations will not be held during the ceremony next Monday because these activities take place between states that have normal relations, and so far Jordan and Israel have not reached the point of signing a peace agreement.

The minister said the border crossing is not the international road project that has been agreed to be constructed to link Jordan, Israel, and Egypt through Elat, al-'Aqabah, and Taba because this project is still under study, and it is expected to be implemented in 1995.

Control Post Established

JN0708064494 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 29

[Text] Amman—The Interior Ministry has completed all measures to establish a police control post at the new tourist crossing between al-'Aqabah and Elat.

Sources have learned that in the next two days the Interior Ministry will appoint officers and policemen to supervise the new border crossing point and to stamp the passports of the third country nationals arriving or departing through this post. The Interior Ministry reported these new arrangements to the Prime Ministry.

It is worth mentioning that 'Ali al-Fayiz, director of the Interior Ministry's Residency and Nationality Department, is a member of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks with Israel.

Services Ready

JN0708093394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] The competent Jordanian parties have completed all arrangements to provide administrative and health services and the necessary money exchange bureaus for passengers at the crossing point between al-'Aqabah and Elat which will be opened tomorrow.

The Jordanian News Agency correspondent in al-'Aqabah reported that work continues now on the 3.5-km long road linking the crossing point and the highway on the Jordanian side. The road will be ready for use as of tomorrow, Monday morning.

Crossing Point, Phone Link Termed 'First Fruits'

JN0808064394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Aug 94 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "Peace on the Ground"]

[Text] Today's opening of the border post and the opening of telephone links between Jordan and Israel yesterday can be considered the first fruits of the bilateral relations whose initial features were defined by the principles of the Washington Declaration, including the principle of ending the state of war that continued for 46 years.

When His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin meet today, in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, another step will be taken on the road to ending the state of war. This meeting will also be another step on the road to creating practical facts on the ground that clearly indicate the start of a new and different stage of Jordanian-Israeli relations, which is expected to lead to the signing of a peace agreement after accomplishing the items on the agenda of negotiations.

No doubt, this day on which the first crossing point on the Jordanian-Israeli border will be inaugurated, will be viewed from now on as the start of the practical implementation of the anticipated state of peace. This is especially so after the bilateral negotiations, including the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington less than two weeks ago, overcame the barriers that prevented this progress.

Hence, the Jordanian-Israeli summit in al-'Aqabah today not only entails important symbolic issues, it also includes new meanings for this stage—a stage expected to set the foundation for peaceful relations based on bilateral interests, one that achieves for Jordan, in particular, its legitimate demands listed in the joint agenda. Topping these are its demands are for territory, borders, security, water, and sovereignty.

We view King Husayn's meeting with Rabin in al-'Aqabah with great interest and see it as the start of a new stage of peace that we hope will be prosperous for our peace and our region. We hope Israel will continue to adhere to the principles of peace, which will not be peace unless it is just and comprehensive and will not be a durable unless future generations are convinced by it and sense in it practical interests and gains that are worth defending.

Al-Majali Chairs Meeting on Upcoming Negotiations

JN0608140594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali presided over a meeting at the Foreign Ministry at noon today. The meeting was attended by several cabinet ministers concerned with the topics listed on the agenda of the upcoming negotiations with Israel, due to start on 9 August.

The meeting was also attended by members of the delegation to the bilateral negotiations, as well as several experts and advisers to the Jordanian delegation.

The prime minister gave the attendees general instructions, stressing the need to promote the topics listed in the joint agenda signed between Jordan and Israel on 14 September 1993, which includes the basic topics pertaining to territory, borders, security, water resources, and other secondary issues.

Ministers Hold News Conference on 8 Aug Talks

JN0608183194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister and foreign minister, presided over a meeting at the Foreign Ministry today. The meeting was attended by several cabinet ministers, and members of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral peace negotiations with Israel. At the end of the meeting, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of information, and Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, held a news conference, in which they reviewed the most important issues discussed at the meeting, as well as developments in the peace process. Our correspondent Khalil al-Qaryuti provides further details on the issue:

[Begin recording] [Al-Qaryuti] At the beginning of the news conference, Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, addressed the issues discussed at the meeting chaired by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali.

[Al-Hasan] The prime minister gave the attendees general instructions. He stressed the need to promote all the topics listed in the joint agenda agreement signed between Jordan and Israel on 14 September 1993, which includes basic issues pertaining to territory, borders, security, water resources, and other secondary issues. The prime minister also noted the need for coordination and cooperation among the concerned ministries and departments in order to enable the negotiators to address substantive and specific issues in the negotiations in the upcoming phase. As a matter of course, the prime minister underscored Jordan's national constants, including all the issues related to safeguarding Jordanian rights, and the re-exercising of its sovereignty on its territories, borderlines, and water resources.

The prime minister also addressed the outcome of the recent visit to Washington by His Majesty King Husayn, the Washington summit, and the important speech delivered by his majesty the king at a joint session of the U.S. Congress. He underlined the great efforts His Majesty King Husayn made during this visit, which have produced great and historic accomplishments. A general discussion was held during the meeting. The prime minister answered all the questions that were asked. Many clarifications regarding the nature of the upcoming negotiations, due to be held on 9 August, were also provided.

[Al-Qaryuti] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of information, addressed the tripartite meeting due to be held on Monday [8 August], and the arrangements made for inaugurating the border crossing.

[Al-'Anani] The meeting that will be held on Monday to inaugurate the border crossing will be attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince in his capacity as a representative of His Majesty King Husayn, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and the U.S. secretary of state. Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali will also attend this meeting. The meeting will also be attended by several concerned cabinet ministers, technicians, heads of the establishments that have contributed to the completion of this project, as well as heads of the establishments that will contribute toward regulating the transit of third country nationals via this crossing.

After the inauguration ceremony, speeches will be delivered by His Royal Highness Prince Hasan and the two guests. Then, everyone; that is, the guests, accompanied by His Highness Prince Hasan, will head for al-'Aqabah, where they will meet with His Majesty King Husayn. Afterward, a meeting with several reporters will be held. A dialogue will be held among his majesty the king, Rabin, and Christopher. It will last approximately half an hour. These events will be carried live. Afterward, his majesty the king will escort his two guests on a sea cruise in the Gulf of Aqaba. Then, they will head for the house of his majesty the king. Later, the two guests will leave the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Of course, there will be negotiations and talks on the issues raised in Washington, and the implementation of the Washington Declaration, particularly with regard to the topics noted by His Excellency brother Talal; that is, those concerning the restoration of Jordan's rights, or the re-exercising of Jordan's sovereign rights to its territories and water resources, and the need to expedite the negotiations on these two issues.

As a result of today's discussion, it has become very clear that Jordan and Israel have made progress in terms of reaching agreement on the bases, in accordance with which border demarcation will be accomplished, and then, border milestones will be laid down. Also, there is an agreement on the bases regarding Jordan's fair share of the waters of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers.

As the prime minister noted in the meeting, we have moved the talks from Washington to the region not only in a geographic sense, but the negotiations themselves have also moved on to the basic details. The Jordanian delegation must have, as usual, the details and the delicate scientific information. The delegation must be prepared for the questions that will be raised by the other party and the answers that will guarantee Jordan's rights in the talks.

The prime minister conveyed to the Jordanian negotiating delegation his majesty's full confidence in the negotiating team. Coordination was held among the various ministries so that interconnection will be maintained between the negotiators in the field and the involved ministries, which will contribute to laying down negotiating policies and which will implement what will be produced by these talks.

[Al-Qaryuti] Answering a question on the talks regarding the issues of water and borders, Dr. al-'Anani said:

[Al-'Anani] I must affirm that what has been agreed on is the basis and point of reference. We agreed to return to the mandate agreement, which will be the point of reference for this matter. The second point [as heard]: We should agree on the working method. This was agreed on in terms of forming committees, such as the subcommittee that is specialized in this matter. This in itself is an accomplishment at this stage. The third point is the need to reach an agreement on drawing maps for certain areas whose border demarcation will face problems in order to avoid such problems. We must agree on the working method. Where will border demarcation begin and how will it move to the rest of the border? I would like here to stress that this should not have any effect on the border between Jordan and the occupied territory. I hope this will be very clear. After drawing the maps and laying down the legal framework, researchers will then move to the field to lay down the milestones on the ground.

[Al-Qaryuti] Commenting on the same subject, Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, said:

[Al-Hasan] I would like to add to what the information minister said regarding the detailed issues and rights that the joint agenda reiterated and guaranteed. The joint agenda includes principles that guarantee Jordan's rights to re-exercise its authority on its lands, borders, and waters. Consequently, these rights are firm and have a framework in the agenda. The talks now will deal with details and the working method. The rights have been entrenched in the agenda.

[Al-Qaryuti] Regarding the political, social, and economic results of the peace process and when these effects will be felt, Dr. al-'Anani said:

[Al-'Anani] I believe that some benefits have already begun to appear. Such benefits began to appear in the state budget. The Jordanian treasury, for example, is the first to benefit from writing off Jordan's debts to the United States. We must translate this reduction in Jordan's commitments to foreign countries into projects that will benefit people. Everyone realizes that peace should produce economic and social advantages and that this should be felt in the people's lives. People want to have better job opportunities within the framework of peace. I believe that we will see the results of this matter when we get water, and we got it. For example, Israel recently pumped water to Jordan.

[Unidentified reporter] What quantity of water was pumped?

[Al-'Anani] I do not want to give details, but it pumped the quantity we were in need of. It was a kind of initiative in this direction. The question is: Had Israel not pumped this water ...?[question incomplete as heard] I do not want here to exaggerate the benefits of what happened. It is at least a step in the right direction that makes me feel that the quantity of water needed for irrigation in the Jordan Valley is available. Job opportunities will also increase because the opening of border crossings will increase tourism activities in Jordan and activate tourism. We want to say that, with time, the benefits of the process will become clear. You cannot say that at a certain time all benefits will be achieved. The benefits will be achieved gradually. When we speak about peace benefits, we must realize that these benefits will come all together. Efforts must be exerted inside Jordan so as to invest these benefits. [end recording]

Al-'Anani Comments on Talks With Israel

JN0608195094 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 6 Aug 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Jordanian-Israeli bilateral talks on border demarcation and delineation will resume on Tuesday [9 August]. The date has been moved forward by one day, because negotiators will be attending Monday's ceremonies to open the first border crossing between the two countries.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will open the post on Monday morning, linking the Red Sea towns of al-'Aqabah in Jordan and Elat in Israel.

Jordan and Israel agreed to open the al-'Aqabah-Elat border crossing point for third country nationals as part of last month's historic Washington Declaration, ending a 46-year state of war.

The opening ceremony will include a symbolic cutting of ribbon, and short speeches by the three leaders.

Meanwhile, the two-week-long meetings starting on Tuesday will discuss water rights, economic cooperation, and border demarcation—issues agreed in the common agenda signed in Washington last September.

This will be the second meeting in the region since mid-July's talks in Wadi al-'Arabah. All [as heard] sessions will be held at Israel's potash factory on the Dead Sea, while the border demarcation group will resume deliberations at the Wadi al-'Arabah site, 13 km north of al-'Aqabah.

The government said Israel has started pumping water from the River Jordan into Jordanian territory. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani described this historic development as a new initiative in the right direction by Israel.

Dr. al-'Anani was speaking after the prime minister chaired a meeting of the Jordanian delegation to the talks with Israel. He said the next round of talks would deal with some of the issues discussed in Washington, particularly those related to water. The information minister said there is agreement with Israel on Jordan's rightful share of the waters of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers.

The minister said Jordan and Israel have gone a long way in agreeing on the bases for border demarcation and delineation.

Dr. al-'Anani said the issue of Jerusalem was too dangerous to be left for political rivalries, since Jordan is seeking the right of the Islamic and Arab nations to holy Islamic and Christian sites. He said Jordan does not want to make the issue of Jerusalem a subject of Arab bargaining at this stage.

Al-Anani Interviewed on Israeli Radio

TA0608131694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 6 Aug 94

["Special" telephone interview with Jordanian Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani by anchorman Yoram Ronen and Arab affairs correspondent Moti Amir on 6 August; place not given—recorded, in English with passage-by-passage translation into Hebrew; transcribed from the English]

[Text] [Ronen] Good morning, Mr. Minister.

[Al-'Anani] Good morning.

[Ronen] King Husayn flew over Israel the other day. Now Prime Minister Rabin is making the first official visit to Jordan. May I ask why this first festive visit is not being held at the royal palace in Amman?

[Al-'Anani] Well, it should be where the event is. You know, the flight of His Majesty over Jerusalem is because of his attachment to al-Aqsa Mosque. We are gradually building up a relation that is making use of the occasions that are available. So, we have accepted the fact that we are making a gradual approach, and I think doing things this way—making use of the occasions, of building up peace block by block—I think what we are doing is good and optimal and opens the door for much better future cooperation.

[Ronen] Mr. Rabin will be the first Israeli citizen that will cross the new border station linking Elat to al-'Aqabah. Is that right?

[Al-'Anani] I think so, unless some journalists beat him to it.

[Ronen] Now the unavoidable question, Mr. Minister: Will King Husayn reciprocate with an official visit to Jerusalem? How soon will it happen?

[Al-'Anani] Well, you know, His Majesty has made it clear before that when the right time comes, he will make that trip; he will make a trip to Jerusalem, a place which he misses very much.

[Ronen] When will the first tourist cross the new border station linking Elat to al-'Aqabah and al-'Aqabah to Elat?

[Al-'Anani] We need to get the people from the tourist sector to get together and agree on that, to make the details. When the details are finished on how to cross—the modus operandi, all the necessary details—once these are finalized, I think we can expect something to happen, and it could happen any time after the inauguration.

[Ronen] Mr. Minister, Secretary Christopher is resuming his shuttle diplomacy this weekend, and he will meet King Husayn before and after he meets President al-Asad. How far are Amman and Damascus coordinated in the peace negotiations with Israel?

[Al-'Anani] All I need to say is that we all in the region need comprehensive peace. This has been agreed upon in Washington. Mr. Rabin has declared this, President Clinton has said so, and His Majesty has asserted this more than once. We all need comprehensive peace because that will be....[changes thought] Any peace short of comprehensiveness cannot be permanent forever. We all are putting a great effort to build a peace that will last for a long, long, long time. Therefore, let's hope that the efforts of Mr. Christopher will materialize in doing what we need.

As far as coordination is concerned, I will decline to make a comment on that.

[Ronen] Mr. al-'Anani, with a report in one of our evening papers, YEDI'OT AHARONOT, indicating that Iraq is trying to approach Israel as a partner in the peace process, will Jordan encourage such a move on behalf of Baghdad?

[Al-'Anani] Let me go back to the Israeli agenda, and I will take one item. For instance, Israel's definition of regional security always referred to Iraq. When we talk about multilateral negotiations, especially in the field of security, Israel has been the [word indistinct] of Iraq. Now we should also address the question to Israel, whether they want Iraq to be involved in the multilateral negotiations on issues like security. And, then, how about issues in the future, about economic cooperation, or issues like water, for instance? I think Iraq, as Iraq, can play an important role in these matters. However, if Iraq will take such a decision at this particular stage, we will have to wait and see.

[Ronen] But Jordan will encourage Iraq to participate in any rapprochement to Israel?

[Al-'Anani] This is a difficult question that you're addressing to me right now, and I am afraid this is what we call a complex question. You're doomed if you say yes, and you're doomed if you say no. So, I will not answer.

[Amir] Sir, how do you think these quickly warming ties between Israel and Jordan will affect the relation between Israel and the Palestinians?

[Al-'Anani] Both Jordan and the Palestinian territories have many relations because we, in Jordan, kept open bridges with the occupied territories since 1967 until now. That has created many economic and human dealings, other than the fact that the people know each other, they are related to each other in many ways. Therefore, whatever happens in the territories is of a great concern to us. We want to see the economy prosper, we want to see institutions being built, and we want to establish a very good relation. This is not only good for both Jordan and the Palestinians, but it's also good for the future cooperation in the region. Therefore, we should all work together in order to improve the situation.

[Ronen] Chairman 'Arafat is not so satisfied from the agreement between Israel and Jordan, especially the Jerusalem part.

[Al-'Anani] That's all right. Mr. 'Arafat, I think you know....[changes thought] Judging from the comments, I think people have been talking about the issue of Jerusalem. What was mentioned in the Washington Declaration was not Jerusalem. What was mentioned was the holy places, the holy Islamic places in Jerusalem. The Hashemites have a historical as well as a religious role to play in these places, and this role has been exercised through the Islamic awqaf, which Jordan manages and finances. Until such a time when the Palestinians arrive at a final solution at final status negotiations and this issue is resolved, then Jordan can take the right position depending on the outcome of such negotiations.

[Amir] Can you comment about the act of Chairman 'Arafat of closing the newspaper AL-NAHAR in East Jerusalem?

[Al-'Anani] I hope that this decision is temporary in nature and that whatever caused the decision may be reviewed again, because we would like to see freedom of expression exercised everywhere in the region.

[Amir] Do you think that Mr. 'Arafat will meet His Majesty King Husayn soon?

[Al-'Anani] I think it will be a good idea if Mr. 'Arafat meets with His Majesty in order to coordinate things. There are so many issues which we need to discuss again and coordinate and put things back on the proper track. Not that such meetings usually propel the relations to the healthy level that should characterize it.

[Ronen] You don't know if such a meeting will take place?

[Al-'Anani] If such a meeting will take place or not, I don't have any information on that.

[Ronen] Mr. Minister, thank you very much for this interview. We all hope to see you and especially His Majesty King Husayn in Israel very soon.

[Al-'Anani] Thank you very much.

AL-RA'Y Urges Expediting Talks With Israel

JN0708094794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Aug 94 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Expediting Negotiations To Regain Rights"]

[Text] The Washington Declaration provided the line separating war and peace and put an end to 46 years of belligerency between the kingdom and Israel. The signing of this declaration on 25 July was supposed to remove the first obstacle that prevented the expedition of negotiations between the two parties.

The inauguration of a new border crossing point with Israel in the southern part of the kingdom tomorrow is one of five steps stipulated in the Washington Declaration to get rid of the results of war, and is part of a series of official Jordanian initiatives to strengthen the confidence-building measures with the Israelis. It also confirms that the kingdom is keen on abiding by the agreement in letter and spirit.

However, what is happening now is not an end to the negotiating process, but the start of it. The Jordanian measures that have been taken so far to strengthen confidence should have provided the appropriate atmosphere to expedite negotiations.

During his meeting yesterday with the Jordanian negotiating teams, the prime minister stressed the need to preserve the Jordanian constants and all the issues included in the agenda signed with Israel on 14 September 1993. What was agreed upon in the Jordanian-Israeli agenda is the point of reference for the kingdom's exercise of its sovereignty over its occupied territory in accordance with the mandate document. The practical arrangements to implement that will not affect the borders between Jordan and the occupied territories.

Israel is now required to respond in kind to the Jordanian confidence-building measures. Israel must respond favorably to the Jordanian demand to expedite negotiations over land, borders, and waters. Such a response will provide tangible evidence of Israel's good will and compliance with the Washington Declaration.

Writing off some Jordanian debts also proves that the kingdom's credibility in the current peace process is now ascertained by the U.S. sponsor first, and by other influential parties in the world, particularly Britain.

Apart from the Knesset's ratification of the Washington Declaration and Israel's recent pumping of some water to Jordan, Tel Aviv is still slow in responding to the Jordanian peace measures with similar measures on the ground in order to exchange land for peace, the principle stipulated in the Washington Declaration.

Paper Views Israeli 'Practical, Positive Step'

JN0708160394 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Aug 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "A Step on the Road To Translating the Washington Declaration"]

[Text] On the eve of the opening of the border crossing between Jordan and Israel in the southern part of the kingdom, we should say that this is a practical step toward translating the text and contents of the Washington Declaration that were derived from the joint agenda signed in Washington last year.

This positive step will help increase tourist activities and provide job opportunities, and factors of economic, commercial, and social progress for the people of that area.

The opening of the border crossing between Jordan and Israel is very important because it comes after a substantial stride was made toward border demarcation, and after entering into details regarding the restoration of Jordan's sovereign rights on its occupied land and seized water.

Jordanian-Israeli negotiations will resume after the border ceremony, which will be attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, representing His Majesty King Husayn, and a number of ministers and ranking Jordanian officials. The ceremony will also be attended by Yitzhaq Rabin, Shim'on Peres, and the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The talks themselves will be attended by His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Prince Hasan, and Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd- al-Salam al-Majali, as well as Yitzhaq Rabin, Peres, and Christopher. They will deal with means of implementing the Washington Declaration, especially concerning Jordan's sovereign rights on its land and water.

Undoubtedly, the Jordanian delegation, as the prime minister said, will emphasize the Jordanian constants regarding all issues to be discussed with the aim of attaining all Jordanian rights of sovereignty over all its land.

We believe the Husayn-Rabin-Christopher meeting in the session of negotiations held after the ceremony will activate the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations and move them big steps forward.

It is worth noting that Israel has recently pumped huge quantities of water to Jordan in order to meet Jordanian needs. This is a practical and positive step that shows that Israel recognizes Jordan's right to restore its usurped water.

However, what is taking place on the Jordanian-Israeli borders does not mean ending the negotiations, but shifting them from Washington to the concerned region in order to implement what is agreed on on the ground.

The results and achievements of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Washington and his meetings in the White House and the Congress are taking shape step by step. These great achievements have been welcomed and supported by the sons of our one Jordanian family and its various social sectors, political and intellectual leanings. They reiterated confidence in, and allegiance to the leader of the victorious march. His achievements have been supported by a large number of sisterly and friendly countries. The positive fruits of these achievements will gradually surface in the form of welfare and progress to our people.

Husayn Receives Cable From Jerusalem Patriarch

JN0708143394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Aug 94

["Text" of cable to King Husayn of Jordan from Jerusalem Patriarch Theodoros I; date not given]

[Text] Your Majesty, with deep interest and a strong belief in your courageous Hashemite leadership, we, at the Jerusalem Orthodox Patriarchate, have been following your majesty's blessed efforts to build a new future in this region; something that can be accepted by future generations and under which this region's peoples will enjoy a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace—efforts which culminated in the signing the Washington Declaration at the American White House on the 25th of last month.

Your Majesty, we seize this historic occasion to express to you, to your wise government, and to the sons of the great Jordanian people, in my name and on behalf of the members of the Jerusalem Patriarchy, the clergymen, and the sons of the Orthodox sect throughout the Jerusalem Patriarchal See, our heartfelt greetings and best congratulations, beseeching Almighty God to make this agreement a step toward achieving what dear Jordan wishes, namely spreading peace, security, and stability on its land.

Your Majesty, our Patriarchate and the members of the Holy Sepulcher Fraternity have preserved and are still preserving the Christian shrines, and ours is the only Patriarchate in the holy land for which Jordan enacted Law No. 27 of 1958 to which we are still committed in letter and spirit despite the Israeli occupation.

Your Majesty, since the 'Umarite Covenant was made, the caliphs and the Muslim rulers throughout the Islamic ages have been adhering to it in their dealings with us. Your Majesty is one of these rulers and the most committed to that covenant's noble meanings and Islamic values. We are convinced that you do not want our Patriarchate's religious status in Jerusalem to be harmed or impaired.

Your Majesty, we express to you our full support for and loyalty to the dearly beloved Hashemite throne. God's peace, mercy, and blesses be upon you.

[Signed] Theodoros I, Patriarch of the holy city of Jerusalem

Ministers on Ties, Joint Projects With Israel

JN0708120494 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Aug 94 pp 1, 25

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Water and Irrigation Minister Dr. Salih Irshaydat has stated that two days ago, Israel started pumping 4 million cubic meters of water from al-Yarmuk River to the East Ghawr Canal. He said the pumping will continue throughout the summer season as an Israeli goodwill gesture.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Dr. Irshaydat said the Washington Declaration clearly stated that both parties recognize the water rights of all parties. He said this recognition establishes Jordan's water rights. He stressed that these rights will greatly help develop the Jordan Valley and meet the demand for water.

Dr. Salih Irshaydat said that the Johnston Plan gave Jordan a share of 377 million cubic meters of al-Yarmuk River waters. However, he said, Jordan gets only 120 million and this amount will increase, with Israel's pumping of water into the Ghawr Canal in the summer season, to 124 million cubic meters.

In a related development, telephone links between Jordan and Israel will start tomorrow, Monday. The U.S. Secretary of State will make the first direct telephone call. Dr. Hashim al-Dabbas, minister of communications and post, said the direct telephone link between Jordan and Israel will start tomorrow, Monday, after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher travels the road between al-'Aqabah and Elat.

Asked by AL-RA'Y if there are any problems with the Jordanian telephone exchanges that may prevent the link, Dr. al-Dabbas said there is no problem with the exchanges and other communications-related issues on the Jordanian side that may prevent the start the telephone link between Jordan and Israel.

For his part, Dr. Muhammad al-'Adwan, minister of tourism and antiquities, said he expects peace to promote the tourism sector, not only in Jordan but also in the entire region. The minister said that after opening the Jordanian-Israeli crossing point between al-'Aqabah and Elat there will be a strong tourist movement by third country nationals, and not the Israelis or Jordanians.

Informed sources said the first bus carrying 40 Spanish tourists will cross Wadi al-'Arabah in the direction of al-'Aqabah as soon as the official ceremony marking the opening of the border crossing point is over.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Nusur, minister of public works and housing, said the 3.5-km road to the crossing point was completed in a short period of time at a cost of some 250,000 dinars. The Armed Forces joined hands with the Ministry of Public Works and other agencies to build the road, he said.

Queried by AL-RA'Y about the budget allocated for building highways between Jordan and Israel, Dr. al-Nusur said the budget is insufficient and this is the only obstacle facing us in this regard.

Transport Minister Eng. Samir Qa'war told AL-RA'Y that he has not yet discussed with the Israeli parties Israel's use of the high capacity of al-'Aqabah Port. He said studies are now being made of the good potentials of the port to serve all Red Sea littoral states and all states in the region. Asked if al-'Aqabah Airport will be used by Israeli planes, Eng. Qa'war said this subject has not been discussed yet.

Asked about the road between al-'Aqabah and Elat, Eng. Qa'war said the road will be used only by third country nationals and not the Jordanians or Israelis. He also said the road will not be used for the transportation of goods.

Eng. Qa'war added that there must be a new outlook after the peace agreement. The Port of al-'Aqabah can be used in the most ideal way and advantage must be made of the air flights. Peace must, therefore, pay a high dividend to serve comprehensive developments.

Asked about the possibility of reaching a Jordanian-Israeli agreement on transportation, Eng. Qa'war said talks on this issue may take a long time.

78 Percent Support Peace With Israel

JN0608145694 Amman AL-'AHD in Arabic 6 Aug 94 pp 1, 5

[Report by the political affairs editor]

[Excerpts] Are Jordanians for or against peace and reconciliation with Israel? More important, do they have freedom of expression to speak about this long-tabooed issue? [passage omitted]

An AL-'AHD press team polled citizens of all sectors in a random fashion. The poll included 821 citizens from all governorates. Three questions were asked in a special questionnaire.

The first question: Do you think it is necessary to hold a referendum on peace with Israel? Yes/No

The second question: If such a referendum takes place, what will your answer be? Yes/No

The third question: Do you think there is an alternative to the negotiations to achieve peace? Yes/No

The answer to the first question in all governorates was as follows: 72.5 percent said yes to the referendum; 27.5 percent saw no need.

The answer to the second question was: 78 percent said yes to peace; 22 percent replied no to peace.

As for the third question, 74 percent said there was no alternative to the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Deputies Discuss 'Opposition' to Peace, Policy

JN0508204394

[Editorial Report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 1715 GMT on 5 August carries within its weekly "60 Minutes" program a 17-minute panel discussion with two members of the Jordanian House of Representatives, 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur, a member of the Islamic Action Front [IAF], and Samir al-Habashinah, who has pan-Arab leanings. The panel discussion is moderated by anchorman Hani al-Badri.

At the outset, the deputies discuss the concept of "opposition" as they understand it. Deputy al-'Ukur defines opposition as that which lays emphasis on the concerns of the country. Al-Habashinah speaks about "red lines" that cannot be violated by the opposition, saying opposition in Jordan is not stable and that it is a "test" to what the Jordanians had agreed upon. He describes Jordanian opposition as "responsible and in line with what has been agreed upon."

Asked about Jordan's "national constants," Deputy al-'Ukur says "no political party or organization that has participated in the democratic stage in Jordan on this basis is allowed to violate these constants." He adds, however, that the "Islamic current" in Jordan has "other principled values that constitute a basic frame of reference for us. We respect the constants as long as they are in harmony with the position of Islamic law. If, however, Islamic law is violated, then we voice our opposition saying that there has been a violation."

Commenting on "constants," Deputy al-Habashinah says there is no disagreement that Islamic law is the primary source of legislation in the National Charter. He adds that the "throne institution is above contradictions" explaining that this institution settles disputes between the government and parliament. He adds that another constant principle is that the "military institution" is a neutral body.

Panel moderator Hani al-Badri then asks the two deputies about what has been going wrong in the democratic process in Jordan, in light of recent remarks about opposition "violations" in terms of Friday sermons, press articles, etc. IAF Deputy al-'Ukur answers: "The truth is that the flaw stems from the fact that there is a certain political way of dealing with the Jews. There is a movement towards a reconciliation or peace with the Jews. This principle, as my brother Samir has said, is rejected by our legitimate frame of reference. We do not deal with the Jews as an entity. We are not against their right, as individuals, to live. However, we are against an entity that has designs in our Arab homeland and that holds certain attitudes in drawing up its future policies, in an attempt to usurp the will of the Arab homeland and usurp the entity of this homeland, through statements we have heard, especially after the 1967 war. We are still hearing such statements. In Wadi al- 'Arabah, Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation, said in answer to a question about whether Israel's expansionist dreams to set up their greater state had come to an end: Who said that Israel is land and borders? So, I'm really haunted by fear of this attitude. He thinks that Israel should not have borders. It could be a stick that reaches all parts of the Arab homeland to subjugate it to the will of the Jews or the will of the Zionists at this stage."

Deputy al-Habashinah then says that what is happening now is a "grave development" and that Jordan's democratic experiment is still young and that the current developments constitute a "good test" of this experiment. He says that Jordanians should emerge from the current developments with the "least possible losses" and "protect our democratic march and prepare the ground for our great pan-Arab and Islamic plan".

IAF Deputy al-'Ukur then adds: "There is no doubt that this is a huge development. I consider it an earthquake that has happened at the wrong time and without proper preparation. However, I also say that it is the duty of leaders and symbols to raise the level of awareness of the people and to tell the people that at this stage, we are absolutely not calling for war with the Jews. We are not even calling for resisting the Jews. We are asking ourselves and we ask the sons of the Jordanian society to hold our ground in the face of what is being planned against us, no more. Therefore, I agree with what brother Samir has said, that at this stage and under these circumstances, we do not want to make gains, because the stage has no gains. We should emerge with the least possible losses by opening up to each other."

Al-Habashinah concludes, noting that what is happening now is not a Jordanian wish or desire, but the outcome of Arab and international developments.

Al-Majali Meets Secretaries of Opposition Parties

JN0708171294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] At the Prime Ministry at noon today, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received in his office secretaries general of the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Islamic Action Front, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, Popular Unity Party-the Unionists, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, and the head of the Jordanian Arab Popular Committee Against Capitulation.

The secretaries presented a memorandum laying out their thinking on negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

They thanked the prime minister's prompt response to their request for the meeting hard on the heels of his return from the United States to hear their views on developments in the Middle East peace process.

Al-Majali told them the government was willing to listen to all viewpoints in keeping with His Majesty King Husayn's approach and the Jordanian democratic principle, as well as to advance higher national and pan-Arab interests.

The session was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi; Interior Minister Salamah Hammad; and Dr. 'Abdallah al-Jazi, minister of state at the Prime Ministry.

Further on Meeting

JN0708185994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Excerpts] At the Prime Ministry at noon today, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received in his office secretaries general of eight Jordanian parties who presented a memorandum on the positions of these parties on the negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track. [passage ommitted]

A dialogue was held in which the secretaries general of the eight parties explained their views on the Washington Declaration and regional issues, the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict in relation to the Palestine question, and the contents of the memorandum which say that the peace negotiations concern all people and have great a impact on their current life and future, and the life of the Arab nation as a whole and its future. They also pointed out the necessity of continuing work with the concerned Arab countries and the PLO to restore all Arab rights to land and shrines, including Jerusalem, and the demand for giving the Palestinian people their rights on their national soil. They also stressed the need for freedom of expression to enhance the citizens' liberties as guaranteed by the Constitution.

The memorandum expressed these parties' rejection of relinquishing Jerusalem or Palestine or encroaching on Jordan's sovereignty.

The prime minister emphasized that it is natural that views on issues differ, especially when these issues are of great importance. This does not mean that anyone is abandoning his responsibilities toward the homeland and the public interest, or that he is not committed to preserving the Constitution and the laws that guaranteed the right of expression to all through ways that all agreed to be the best. The calm, balanced, and enlightened dialogue through available means, including the licensed parties' newspapers and the open communication between the sons of our one family, allows all to full freedom to express their views on all issues, whether big or small.

Al-Majali said Jordan, through its successive governments, has repeatedly called for just and comprehensive peace and for implementing the Security Council resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338. Jordan took part in the Madrid conference with its Arab brothers so everyone would have his rights restored and the countries of the region could live in peace. The different tracks then followed, and the brothers in the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, got their independent track. They are proceeding with their efforts to continue restoration of their rights to their national soil. For our part, we will never stop supporting them. The other tracks have their own pace and steps, leading to the attainment of rights by all. They are now in advanced stages of negotiations. In such a situation, the agreement on a comprehensive and a just peace will end the conflict in Middle East.

He emphasized that Jordan—without affecting the rights of its brothers—managed to entrench and restore its sovereignty and demands on land and water. Jordan also restored its central role in the Middle East, including its role in solving the problem of refugees. Jordan has always been for Arab coordination. We have been, and will continue to be the carriers of the Great Arab Revolt's message. We struggle for Arab rights and the freedom of Arab peoples and the future of their peoples. As His Majesty King Husayn said, we will never forget Palestine for a moment, and we were the first to shoulder the responsibility and the most harmed by its tragedy.

On the subject of Jerusalem and what the secretaries general raised about relinquishing the political dimension of Jerusalem and accepting religious jurisdiction on the holy places, the prime minister said Jerusalem is a symbol of peace, and its final status will be decided when the negotiations on it begin between the Palestinian and Israeli sides later, while the religious jurisdiction on the holy places is a continuation of a reality and entrenchment of a duty that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan carries out, and is nothing new. The objective is a noble one, which is to preserve the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem and protect them to the best of out ability. This is something that had been blessed by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, since the decision to disengage the administrative link with the West Bank was made in 1988. The care provided to Islamic waqf and those working in the waqf sector was a Jordanian responsibility before the 1967 war and remains so now. The prime minister recalled Jordan's great sacrifices in defending the holy city and protecting the shrines there since 1948.

Everyone expressed desire to maintain the unity of the one family under leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, and their wishes that the interests of the nation and its generations be attained, in the service of the nation's future issues.

Foreign Minister Meets With PLO Delegation

JN0708164094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, received at his office today Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the Information Department in the Palestinian National Authority; Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace negotiations; and 'Umar al-Khatib, the charge d'affaires at the Palestinian embassy in Amman. The meeting was attended by Nayif al-Hadid, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry.

The meeting reviewed a number of joint concerns, led by bilateral relations. The minister explained to the Palestinian delegation the clear Jordanian position on the holy places in Jerusalem, and briefed them on the Jordanian Government's statement issued on 28 July on Jerusalem and the holy shrines there, and the continuation of the Jordanian Hashemite role in practicing its religious jurisdiction over the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

Delegation Briefed on Position

JN0808074694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] (J.T.)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan on Sunday [7 August] met with a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation and explained Jordan's position on Jerusalem, the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, said.

PETRA said Mr al-Hasan explained to the delegation the details of Jordanian statements issued reaffirming the Kingdom's position vis- a-vis the continued Hashemite role in safeguarding and maintaining the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem.

The PLO delegation, which arrived here Sunday in line with a decision taken by the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho, including Palestinian Minister of Information Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and senior PLO leader Faysal al-Husayni. The team's meeting with Mr. al-Hasan was attended by the acting chief of the Palestinian mission here, 'Umar al-Khatib.

PETRA said Mr. al-Hasan stressed to the delegation "Amman's clear position over the issue of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem and the continued Hashemite Jordanian role in exercising religous jurisdiction over them."

An Amman-Based PLO official told Reuters the Palestinian administration was "very concerned to contain any negative repercussions of the Jerusalem issue and the need to restore relations to a warm cordial level."

The PLO has been upset by a clause in a declaration signed last month by Jordan and Israel ending a 46-year-old state of war that recognises a special role for Jordan in Jerusalem's Muslim holy sites.

The Palestinians see East Jerusalem as capital of their future state.

Jordan has repeatedly affirmed that it supports the PLO's campaign to gain political sovereignty over East Jerusalem and this view does not clash with Jordanian role in Muslim shrines in the Holy City.

His Majesty King Husayn on Sunday received more cables of support for his efforts to establish a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East and safeguard holy places in Jerusalem.

The King received a cable from Patriarch of Jerusalem Deodoros I expressing in his own name and on behalf of the Arab Greek Orthodox community appreciation to the King for his steps and efforts to lay down the foundations of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region and safeguard the holy places in Jerusalem.

Patriarch Deodoros said: "With great interest and strong belief in your courageous Hashemite leadership, we followed up Your Majesty's blessed efforts to shape a new future for this region, which the future generation will accept."

He expressed hope that the Washington Declaration "will be a step on the path of achieving peace and maintaining security and stability."

The King also received a cable from Secretary General of the Higher Arab Committee for Palestine Khalid al-Rubi, who expressed pride in the King's honourable stands.

"We in the committee always looked at Your Majesty as the symbol and the leader who will enable us Jordanians and Jordanians of Palestinian origin as one family to regain our usurped rights in accordance with international legitimacy," he said.

Al-'Ahd party members in Irbid Governorate also voiced support for the King's steps, which culminated in the Washington Declaration.

The Party members support "your daring steps which have resulted in the materialisation of the great Arab dream which we have long dreamed of," a cable addressed to the King said.

Economist: U.S. To Write Off All Debts

JN0708095694 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 29

[Report by AL-RA'Y Economy Columnist Dr. Fahd al-Fanik]

[Text] Papers have recently published a report on the U.S. House of Representative's decision to write off $220 million of Jordan's debts as part of next year's foreign aid budget. Yesterday the papers published a different report saying the U.S. House of Representatives decided to write off $99 million of Jordan's debts.

Some people understood these two reports to mean a retreat in the U.S. position and that the amount that will be written off is diminishing day after day. This is absolutely untrue. The $702 million in debts which Jordan owes to the United states will be written off 100 percent. The whole story is that U.S. fiscal arrangements dictate that the amount should be divided over three years. Therefore, as far as we are concerned, the said U.S. debts will be completely written off. The fact that the amount is divided over three years is a procedural measure which Jordan has nothing to do with.

What is even more important is the fact that the U.S. President pledged to contact all the industrial states, to which Jordan is obligated in debts, to follow the U.S. example. He has not made such contacts as yet, and is waiting for the United States to take the initiative and write off Jordan's debts before asking others to do the same.

$220 Million in Debts Cut

JN0708095194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 29

[Text] Amman—Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for the Cabinet Affairs, has said the U.S. House of Representatives has decided to scrap $220 million of the debt Jordan owes to the United States—which, according to Jordanian books, stand at $755 million—in the fiscal year ending 30 September 1994.

Dr. al-'Anani denied reports, carried by news agencies the day before yesterday from Washington, which said that the legislators were asked to write off $99 million. He said: $220 million will be written off, $99 million of which was discussed with the Congress and $120 million with the U.S. Administration.

He said that $200 million, which Jordan owes as U.S. government guarantees for Jordanian loans, is supposed to be written off as soon as the debts are scrapped.

He said that according to U.S. books, the Jordanian debts stand at $695 [million], while according to ours they stand at $755 million. They are expected to be written of over a period of three years.

These cuts and exemptions are part of a bill on an emergency foreign aid budget for 1995 that the U.S. House of Representatives approved with an overwhelming majority .

Christopher Not Visiting Seen as 'Pressure'

NC0708172794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Excerpts] National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is refraining from visiting Lebanon during the current tour in an attempt to pressure us to accept the Israeli conditions and to participate in the multilateral talks. He also stressed his concern for safeguarding social peace and the resistance in Lebanon. He called for unity and maintaining our political position to reach our goals. [passage omitted]

Dallul said: We will not bow to political pressure no matter how great, because we are very concerned to safeguard social peace and the brave resistance. They once said: Participate in the multilateral talks, say how much money you want, and agree to security arrangements before an Israeli withdrawal. It seems they want us to act as police to protect the occupation. He said: Our interests dictate that we remain in solidarity with Syria in the negotiations because a separate solution would lead us to the feeble and frustrated situation that 'Arafat has reached.

Dallul stressed that Christopher has refrained from visiting Lebanon during his tours of the region in an attempt to pressure it to accept the Israeli conditions and participate in the multilateral talks. They want us to negotiate with our enemy over water, the environment, and other issues while our land is still occupied. He said: We participated in the Madrid Conference along with the other Arabs with only the condition that UN Security Council Resolution 425 providing for Israeli withdrawal from our occupied land be implemented. Has Israel implemented this resolution so that we can start normalizing ties with it?

Birri on Christopher Tour, Leaves for Cairo

NC0808092394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Interview with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri by unidentified correspondent in Beirut; date not given—recorded; first two paragraphs are Radio Lebanon introduction]

[Excerpts] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri left for Cairo this morning at the head of a parliamentary delegation on an official visit. He will hold talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and senior officials on the situation in the south and the peace process developments in light of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of the region.

Before leaving Beirut International Airport, Speaker Birri emphasized Lebanon's firm stands on the just and comprehensive peace in the region. He then said:

[Correspondent] Speaker Birri, you are leaving for Cairo amid fevered developments in the south. What do you say about this visit in light of the discussions that will be held and Cairo's role?

[Birri] [passage omitted] We know that the time for the Arabs to score victories has passed and that what is needed is to reduce the Arabs' losses. Therefore, we have to brief our elder sister, Egypt, on the real situation in south Lebanon and tell it the facts about the Israeli attacks on the innocent people and the land and its violation of all UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In view of Christopher's visit to the region and his talks with the Syrians, how do you view the future of peace in the region and the implementation of Resolution 425?

[Birri] I still hold to my view that Lebanon should not have joined the negotiations. The proof of this is that we get beaten whenever Mr. Christopher comes or goes. I want to talk about what happened in Dayr al-Zahrani. These were not the first children to be killed nor was it the first massacre committed by Israel. But this time it was completely different. There is not one single leading official from the Amal Movement of Hizballah in Dayr al- Zahrani. There is not one single leading official from the resistance. None of its inhabitants include a medium-level official from the resistance to make us say that there was a target. [passage omitted]

What was the objective of this new Dayr Yasin massacre by air? The objective was to uproot the people and displace the people of the south as Israel did in July 1993. There was no other reason and there was no mistake because there were no bases, military personnel, or officials. So how could a house be targeted? I stop here to tell Arab and world public opinion what happened to one family. I am returning to this issue not only to answer a question but because Mr. Christopher regards Lebanon's complaint and the demand for a Security Council meeting as not in the interest of the peace procedures, as we have been told. We tell Mr. Christopher that one of the families targeted by air had two of its children killed while two other children were injured and dying. The father was martyred and the mother is alive but has had her legs amputated. We tell Christopher to correct this mistake, and thank you to the U.S. diplomacy. Thank you.

Buwayz on U.S. Stand, 'Partial Peace'

NC0808151794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Aug 94

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents in Beirut on 8 August—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] You have received a message from the U.S. Administration regarding your request for a UN Security Council session to discuss the siege of Yuhmur. Can you tell us the content of the message?

[Buwayz] In fact, what you call a message represents the U.S. Administration's stand on the situation in the south in general and in Yuhmur in particular and also on the subject of the Lebanese complaint to the Security

Council. In fact, the U.S. Ambassador on Saturday [6 August] conveyed a verbal message expressing the U.S. Government's stand in this connection. He said that the United States is doing its utmost to lift the siege on Yuhmur and is in constant touch with Israel in this regard. Regarding the tense situation in the south, it is not new for the U.S. Administration to call for self-control regardless of who is responsible. However, we believe the so-called Israeli mistake in the south must not allowed to pass as if nothing had happened, as if we are living in another time before different standards for human life and dignity, and as if it is sometimes justified to kill innocent civilians by mistake and that any reaction to this attack is unjustified.

In addition, the United States believes that the complaint to the Security Council may adversely affect the peace process. We believe that since the peace process is based on UN resolutions, it is imperative for Lebanon make the Security Council live up to its responsibility. If the Security Council is inactive, this should be exposed. If the Security Council is still an effective and real international body, we believe it is about time it faced this situation.

[Correspondent] Does this mean Lebanon will proceed with its complaint and request the Security Council to convene despite the possibility that Washington might use its veto?

[Buwayz] We have submitted the complaint. I believe that in any case we must wait and see what the stands will be, be they the Security Council's stands or the U.S. Administration's stands.

[Correspondent] The German ambassador to Lebanon says that their file on the extradition of Yasir al-Shuraydi was handed to Lebanon in January. Is this true?

[Buwayz] What Germany considers a complete file is considered by the Lebanese Justice Ministry to be incomplete in several aspects. I believe the Justice Ministry is demanding certain clarifications, which it is awaiting them from the German Embassy in Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Can you comment on the opening of al-'Aqabah-Elat crossing point?

[Buwayz] In fact, I believe the coming days will demonstrate that this peace cannot last. It is impossible because it is partial. Any partial peace is destined to collapse. Any partial peace defies and provokes the concerned peoples. From this standpoint, I believe that any step not in line with a comprehensive peace is premature and hampers this peace. We cannot consider such steps to seriously serve the peace process. We speak of this crisis, or this issue, or this war is between the Arabs and Israel. Any peace must be made between the Arabs and Israel. In addition to its adverse results in the sense that it might imply a partial and separate peace and aim to embarrass others, I believe it is harmful to the process as a whole. If this step is only one step toward a comprehensive peace, we await this peace. If it is an isolated step, time will show it stopped at this point. I believe such a step will not last long.

[Correspondent] Regarding the Israeli threats, we have noticed that when Christopher was shuttling between Damascus and Tel Aviv things were quiet. Do you believe this lull is relative or temporary? Have the Israeli threats ended?

[Buwayz] This is not the first time that Israel has resorted to divesting the missions of Secretary Christopher or the missions of other international envoys of their meanings. We have always been accustomed to seeing Israel exploit any mission by an international envoy. Israel is trying to transform this mission from one with some political depth that could offer basic and useful political proposals into a logistical mission concerned with solving a certain security problem or establishing a cease-fire. I imagine that what is happening in the south is not far from this, from the political angle.

Fighting in South Continues; UN Action Sought

UN Condemnation Sought

NC0508140694 Paris AFP in English 1326 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Beirut, Aug 5 (AFP)—Lebanon called Friday [5 August] for the UN Security Council to condemn an Israeli air raid which killed eight civilians, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz announced.

"After the latest Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon which caused victims and damage, Lebanon has decided to lodge an urgent protest with the Security Council," Buwayz told reporters.

Eight civilians were killed and 20 wounded on Thursday when an Israeli raid destroyed a three-storey house in the village of Dayr al-Zahrani, police and hospital officials said.

In Jerusalem, an Israeli army spokesman voiced regret at the deaths and said an inquiry would be opened. The bomb had "deviated from its path and hit a house by mistake," he said.

"The Israeli army is not seeking to strike innocent civilians and an inquiry will be opened to determine the cause of this fault."

Israeli warplanes also blasted two positions of the Iranian-backed Hizballah in the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights overlooking Israel's self-declared "security zone."

The attacks came ahead of a visit to the region by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who was due to arrive in Cairo on Saturday on another peace shuttle aimed at breaking the deadlock in talks between Israel and Syria.

Security Council Debate Urged

NC0508184694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] According to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Lebanon has requested an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to condemn Israel for killing civilians. He told journalists that the United Nations cannot stand idly by in the face of these massacres, as if Israel enjoys immunity or is even encouraged in its actions. He said that he has contacted the five permanent member states of the Security Council urging them to halt acts of violence in the region before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher begins his tour of the Middle East tomorrow.

Resistance Fires Rockets

NC0508212794 Paris AFP in English 2056 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Tyre, Lebanon, Aug 5 (AFP)—Guerrillas fired dozens of Katyusha rockets at northern Israel and Israeli positions in south Lebanon on Friday [5 August] in apparent retaliation for a deadly air raid, security officials said.

They said 12 rockets crashed into the Galilee region of north Israel.

Another 13 rockets were fired in waves, following an earlier attack in which five Katyushas targeted an Israeli position on the western edge of Israel's "security zone."

The latest attacks were aimed at the al-Hamra' crossing held by Israeli-backed militiamen of the South Lebanon Army, Israeli army posts near the port city of Tyre and a hill in the same area where the military has radar stations.

An Israeli combat helicopter took off and fired flares in search of the assailants, who launched the missiles from opposite the western sector of the security zone, a stronghold of the Iranian-backed Hizballah, the sources said.

There was no immediate report of casualties. [passage omitted]

The rockets, which crashed near the Mediterranean Sea, caused slight material damage and caused many summer holidaymakers to leave the region, the report said.

Israeli artillery went into action, firing around 20 heavy shells at targets south of Tyre, security sources in south Lebanon said. Dozens of villagers near the security zone fled their homes in pyjamas.

The Israeli army had already been placed on alert in the border region in case of Hizballah retaliation, military sources said earlier.

Israeli Shelling Continues

NC0608054694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] After a very tense and worrying night during which numerous Israeli shells fell on many villages in the south, the Israeli artillery since 0515 today has been shelling the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah in a concentrated and violent manner. Particularly under attack were Jabal al-Rafi', Nab' al-Tasi, al-Jabal al-Akhdar, 'Arab Salim, Mlikh, and al-Luwayzah.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent spoke about a resistance operation against the occupation position in Sujud, while the enemy Army's radio [IDF radio] alleged that katyushas fell last night on the western Galilee region, which caused material damage, according to Israeli radio.

AFP said five katyushas were fired and that 13 rockets were fired by the resistance on the positions of the agent militia. AFP also said that the Israeli artillery shelled three villages in the Tyre region at a time when 13 shells fell in the Galilee area.

The enemy's radio said that the Israeli forces were placed on a state of extreme alert at a time when the Israeli planes did not stop flying over the area throughout yesterday and last night.

A short while ago, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent reported from Iqlim al-Tuffah that the enemy helicopters are carrying out large-scale raking operations of all the villages in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, particularly Nab' al-Tasi, Nahr al-Litani, al-Wadi al-Akhdar, and al-Jabal al-Rafi' at a time when the counter artillery shelling targeted the hills of Mlita, Nab' al-Tasi, and Jisr Zubaydah, which is between Habbush and al-Nabatiyah.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent said the Lebanese Army's artillery currently in the region confronted the Israeli helicopters. The southern fronts were tense yesterday after the Israelis declared a state of preparedness among the ranks of their forces because they anticipate retaliation attack in response to the massacre. This morning the resistance shelled al-Bayyadah position south of Tyre using katyushas.

Two Israeli Soldiers Killed

NC0608052094 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] REUTER cited security sources as saying that two Israeli soldiers were killed and three others were injured this morning in an ambush set up by Hizballah in the south. REUTER also reported that Hizballah fired a number of rockets and shells on the Israeli and South Lebanese Army positions in the south.

Hizballah Claims Killings

NC0608091394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] REUTER, citing security sources, has reported that two Israeli soldiers were killed today in an armed ambush set up by Hizballah fighters in al-'Ayshiyah. Three others were injured. It said that Israeli artillery violently shelled some areas north of the occupied security strip. Some shells fell on Iqlim al-Tuffah and the surrounding areas of al-Nabatiyah, while Israeli helicopters were seen flying over the region.

In addition, a new group of 11 katyushas fell on western Galilee in Israel this morning. Israeli radio noted that three Israeli children were slightly injured in Galilee after their home was hit by a katyusha. An Israeli woman was injured during the night shelling.

At 0930 today, more missiles slammed into northern Israel, according to Israeli security sources. A second group of katyushas fell on Marj 'Uyun, where the headquarters of the Israeli command and the Lahd forces are. Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah noted that Israeli artillery shelling this morning targeted the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah and the Kafr Rumman-'Arab Salim-'Ayn Bu Siwar triangle, as well as the surrounding hills. Three shells a minute were falling on the area. The source of the shelling was the Israeli positions in Bi'r Kallab and al-Zaffatah. Israeli helicopters also raked Jabal al-Rafi' and al-Wadi al-Akhdar using large-caliber machine guns.

Hizballah has claimed responsibility for shelling the settlements in northern Palestine and the occupied strip with missiles. It said in a statement that this is part of our pledge to avenge every drop of blood the Zionists shed in the al-Zahrani massacre. The statement says that every stupidity the enemy commits will have grave consequences and it will only yield disappointment and regret from those actions, according to the Hizballah statement.

Iranian Embassy Condemns Raids

LD0608134194 Tehran IRNA in English 1307 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Beirut, 6 Aug (IRNA)—Iran's embassy here issued a statement Saturday [6 August] condemning the "barbaric attacks" by the Zionist regime on residential areas in southern Lebanon and against innocent civilians, including children and women.

"The Zionist regime's terrorist policy conducted by modern mortal weapons is part of its strategy to proceed with the peace process imposed on the regional nations", the statement said.

It also called on the international human rights organizations to adopt decisive stands toward the terrorist practices of the occupier regime of Qods [Jerusalem].

Yet such aggressions, the statement stressed, will futher strengthen the Lebanese people's will for liberation of the occupied territories from the aggressors.

Israeli planes bombarded residential areas in southern Lebanon three times on Thursday killing 80 innocent civilians and wounding 20 others.

'Jewish Interests' Threatened

NC0608134694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Israeli shelling of Iqlim al-Tuffah, which began this morning and continued with varied intensity, has abated. Israeli aircraft have overflown the south repeatedly today. Fires broke out in 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Jarju' this afternoon due to the shelling.

AFP says that a caller speaking on behalf of a group calling itself the Movement of the Oppressed [harakat al-Mustad'afin] has telephoned its office and threatened attacks against Jewish interests all over the world if Israel continues shelling civilians in south Lebanon. The spokesman claimed his group is responsible for firing eight katyushas at northern Palestine yesterday in retaliation for the massacre Israel perpetrated in Dayr al-Zahrani.

AFP adds that an anonymous caller representing the same group telephoned its office in Beirut on 29 July and claimed his group's responsibility for two bombings in London that targeted the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish society involved in the collection of donations.

Israel Reports Losses

TA0608143094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Captain Oren Avshalom, age 24, from Tiberias, and Sergeant Yevgeniy Braslawsky, age 19, from Jerusalem, were killed and two other soldiers were slightly injured early this morning in a clash with terrorists in south Lebanon. Their next of kin have been notified.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a Giv'ati Brigade unit on a mission in the vicinity of al-'Ayshiyah in the security zone's eastern sector encountered a terrorist squad. The officer and the soldier were killed and two others were slightly injured in the attack and the ensuing exchanges of fire.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops continue to operate in the region. IDF and SLA positions, as well as several towns in the security zone, came under a barrage of rockets and mortars during the clash. The IDF and the SLA retaliated with artillery fire at the sources of the firing. The terrorists retreated from the scene of the clash, leaving behind a lot of equipment, including a recoilless rifle, heavy machine guns, mines, and explosives. They had apparently planned to stage an attack in the security zone or on the northern border.

Israel Bolsters Forces

NC0608155794 Paris AFP in English 1503 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, Aug 6 (AFP)—Israel bolstered its forces in southern Lebanon on Saturday [6

August] after two Israeli soldiers were killed in clashes with Iranian-backed Hizballah guerrillas, security services said.

It was the second time Israel had reinforced its units in the area within two weeks.

An operations unit, six field artillery guns, three jeeps and four troop carriers arrived from northern Israel in Marj 'Uyun, the headquarters of both the Israeli army and its proxy militia the South Lebanon Army (SLA) in Israel's self-declared "security zone."

Other unspecified reinforcements were sent to Israeli army positions in Rihan and Aishiye in the north of the self-declared zone controlled in principle by the SLA.

Six days after the Buenos Aires bombing of a Jewish charity killed at least 95 people on July 18, Israel had boosted its forces in southern Lebanon only some of which were withdrawn on July 30.

The reinforcements came only hours after Hizballah said it ambushed an Israeli patrol firing anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons. A second patrol, also in the al-'Ayshiyah sector of the zone, was attacked with explosives, it said.

The Israeli army said the ambush claimed the lives of two soldiers and wounded two others. The SLA said at least 10 Katyusha rockets hit Galilee in northern Israel.

Another wave of Katyushas also targeted Marj 'Uyun.

Israeli heavy artillery hit back with bombardments of areas north of the zone, security officials in the region said, without reporting casualties.

The escalation of violence in the area came after eight civilians were killed in an Israeli air strike on Thursday, in what Israel admitted was a mistake.

The clashes erupted as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in the Egyptian town of Alexandria for the start of a new Middle East peace mission.

Call Warns of 'Rivers of Blood'

NC0608160094 Paris AFP in English 1356 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Beirut, Aug 6 (AFP)—A Moslem fundamentalist group warned Saturday [6 August] it would hit Jewish targets around the world, creating "rivers of blood," if Israel kept up its attacks on Lebanon.

An anonymous telephone caller to AFP also renewed a claim that the Movement of the Oppressed had carried out the bombings of Israeli and Jewish targets in London on July 26 and 27 that left 20 wounded.

"We warn the Jewish enemy that if they bomb our people again, whether in the south, in Beirut or in the al-Biqa', we will hit Jewish interests across the world and cause rivers of blood to flow like we did in Argentina and London," he said.

The call came as two Israeli soldiers were killed Saturday in Israel's "security zone" in southern Lebanon in clashes with the pro-Iranian Moslem fundamentalist Hizballah.

Four civilians were also wounded in rocket attacks on northern Israel on Friday and Saturday.

Israeli heavy artillery hit back by shelling areas north of the zone, security officials in the region said, without reporting casualties.

The Movement of the Oppressed said it had fired eight Katyusha rockets late Friday on "Jewish settlements in northern Palestine" in response to the killing of eight Lebanese civilians Thursday in an Israeli air strike on south Lebanon.

The anonymous caller did not claim direct responsibility for the Buenos Aires bombing of a Jewish charity on July 18 that killed at least 95 people, but mentioned it as part of the fight by fundamentalists against Israel.

On July 29, a caller from the same group had already claimed responsibility for the London car bombings.

In a separate claim, a statement was sent to the London-based Arabic newspaper AL-HAYAT saying the bombings in the British capital were the work of the Palestinian Resistance-Palestine Jaffa team.

Al-Hariri Meets Ambassadors

NC0608172694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has contacted several of the ambassadors of the concerned countries and met in his office with the commander of the UN Interim Force [UNIFIL] in Lebanon. Prime Minister al-Hariri said that he asked the UNIFIL commander to try to lift the Israeli siege of Yuhmur and restore normal conditions in the township. He added that his contacts with the ambassadors of the concerned countries were designed to halt the military escalation in the south. He noted that these countries are urging self-restraint in order to ease the tension.

The UNIFIL commander stated that he discussed with Prime Minister al-Hariri the tense situation in the south. He pointed out that UNIFIL, as a peacekeeping force, cannot confront military operations in the south but it can brief the Israelis on the situation and the consequences of these actions.

He said he believes that the Dayr al-Zahrani massacre did not intentionally target innocent civilians.

Shelling, Overflights Reported

NC0608192494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Israeli attacks on the peaceful southern villages are continuing. At 2000, al-Hinniyah, al-'Izziyah, al-Qulaylah, and al- Mu'alliyah came under artillery shelling. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY's correspondent in Tyre says that Israeli helicopters continue to overfly the western sector and drop flares for illumination.

Resistance Issues Statement

NC0608200394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance issued a statement tonight about its operations against the Israeli occupation. The statement says that at 2100 yesterday, a resistance group rocketed Zionist targets at Nahariyya, inflicting casualties on the enemy.

At 0500 today, a resistance group ambushed occupation forces in Duhur al-'Ayshiyah. Fierce clashes ensued in which 15 enemy personnel were killed or wounded. Another group detonated an explosive charge, hitting an Israeli vehicle and killing or wounding those inside it.

At the same time, other groups attacked the enemy positions in Sujud, Bi'r Kaliab, al-Dabshah, al-Suwayda', and 'Ali al-Tahir, inflicting casualties on the enemy.

At 0815, the Islamic Resistance shelled the enemy headquarters in Marj 'Uyun, scoring direct hits. At 0830, resistance fighters shelled an artillery emplacement in al-Zaffatah, blowing up a munitions depot.

At 0800, resistance fighters fired rockets at an Israeli intelligence vehicle travelling on al-'Ayshiyah road, wrecking it and injuring those inside it.

Protest Submitted to UN

NC0708054594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Lebanon has lodged a new complaint with the UN Security Council to protest against the Dayr al-Zahrani massacre. Lebanese officials are currently holding intensive contacts with a number of international quarters, including the U.S. administration, to ensure that the new Lebanese complaint does not meet the same fate as the previous complaints.

Syrian Surrenders to SLA

NC0708095494 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Our military correspondent has reported that Syrian national Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir, who is from Aleppo, surrendered to the South Lebanese Army [SLA] in al-Shumariyah today. 'Abd-al-Qadir said that he served in the so-called al-Asad battalion of Syria, fought alongside the Amal Movement, and worked with the terrorists in the area facing al-Shumariyah and in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Minister Calls For Withdrawal

NC0708161694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Labor Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin has stressed that we will not sign a peace treaty in the region until after Israel has withdrawn from our territory. He said that the army and the resistance stand in one trench in defense of our land and people and to liberate Lebanese territory. He said that the Israeli massacres will continue as long as Israel exists. He wondered if the Security Council has become a U.S. Congressional committee. He was speaking at a massive ceremony in al-Ramadiyah in the Tyre area. [passage omitted]

Nasrallah Pledges Resistance

NC0808054794 Paris AFP in English 2140 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Beirut, Aug 7 (AFP)—The leader of the Iranian-backed Hizballah, Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, said Sunday [7 August] his movement would continue the armed struggle against Israel until no Jews were left in the Holy Land.

"We will not give up resistance. The struggle against the Jews and the battle against Zionism will continue until all the land is recovered," Shaykh Nasrallah said in a speech in a Muslim Shiite suburb of Beirut, broadcast on state television.

He was speaking as US Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited Damascus in a new bid to unblock the Israeli-Syrian peace talks and urge Syria to help curb Hizballah attacks in south Lebanon.

"We will return to Jerusalem .. and not a single Jew will remain in Palestine—that is God's promise," Shaykh Nasrallah said.

The Islamic Resistance, armed wing of Hizballah, has spearheaded anti-Israeli attacks in south Lebanon since 1985.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed Saturday in Israel's "security zone" in clashes with Hizballah and four civilians were wounded in Katyusha rocket attacks on northern Israel.

Israel, the United States and Britain accused Hizballah of involvement in recent anti-Jewish terrorist bombings in London and Buenos Aires.

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon, where it maintains 35,000 troops, and is crucial to a comprehensive peace in the region.

Washington acknowledges that Iran is Hizballah's main backer, but believes Syria can also influence the Shiite Muslim fundamentalist group.

Nasrallah 'Confident of Victory'

NC0808055494 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has said: They can give us the sun in our right hand and the moon in our left but we will not abandon the Resistance and the fight against the Jews and Zionists to regain the land and sanctities until God grants us victory or we die with dignity.

He urged the inhabitants of the south and western al-Biqa' to be patient concerning the Jews' mischief, saying: We are the Resistance, not sheep for slaughter. If they have hurt us in Dayr al-Zahrani they are feeling the pain in north Palestine's settlements and in the arenas of confrontation. We are confident of victory.

Resistance Attack Reported

NC0808054294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Contacts involving Lebanese officials and Damascus and the United Nations are continuing even though Lebanon was told two days ago that the United States is opposed to a complaint being lodged or a call being made for a Security Council meeting. The intensive Lebanese contacts aim to stop the continuing Israeli military attacks and threats. The attacks in the south did not stop all night and are continuing now. Here are the details from the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY's correspondent in al-Nabatiyah, Muhammad Shaqqur:

[Begin Shaqqur recording] The area of al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah had a long night of violent Israeli shelling, which has not abated. Starting at 1800 yesterday the Israeli occupation artillery heavily bombarded Iqlim al-Tuffah with 155-mm shells. The shelling concentrated on the hills of Mlita, Jabal Safi, al-Luwayzah, Mlikh, al-Jabal al-Rafi', and al-Jabal al-Akhdar. At least 50 shells also fell on Sujud inside the security strip. The bombardment lasted until 0400 today following a one-hour respite after which heavy shelling resumed. The echo can be heard in al-Nabatiyah and its surrounding area.

Israeli warplanes continued their sorties over the southern skies until the early hours of today, dropping flares. We have just been informed that the violent Israeli shelling of Iqlim al-Tuffah is continuing. [end recording]

The Islamic Resistance announced a short time ago that one of its units attacked the Israeli position in occupied Rshaf at 0500 today. It said that a clash ensued between the enemy troops manning the position and the attacking Resistance men and that the enemy suffered several casualties.

Al-Hariri Notes Strong Relations With Syria

NC0808052894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has responded to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' remarks that any solution to the Lebanese question has to be made through an agreement with Syria. Al-Hariri said that Peres is beating a dead horse and that the attempt to tamper with relations between Lebanon and Syria will not affect them. These ties, he added, stem from both countries' concern about their national and pan-Arab interests, primarily Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupies in south Lebanon and the Golan.

In an interview with AL-NAHAR newspaper, al-Hariri said that Israeli officials have always sought to cast doubt on Lebanese-Syrian relations, but that this will not affect these firm ties. We are in agreement with Syria whether Israel likes it or not, he said.

Three Killed, 12 Wounded in Dynamite Explosion

NC0708100394 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Reports from al-Nabatiyah said that three people were killed and more than 12 others wounded, including a Lebanese Army corporal, when a bulldozer carrying a quantity of dynamite exploded in the town today. There have been no immediate reports on what caused the dynamite to go off.

Warren Christopher Arrives in Damascus for Talks

Makes Arrival Statement

JN0708143794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his wife arrived in Damascus at 1630 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Christopher was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, several senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Christopher made a statement to a correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, saying: I am always happy when I return to Damascus, where I sense seriousness about the objective of achieving the peace that we seek. I am grateful for the hospitality and time accorded me by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Christopher added: I cannot divulge anything before I finish my talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Meets With al-Asad

JN0708162294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the People's Palace at 1715 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process.

Christopher arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted contained in referent item]

Comments After Meeting

JN0808060694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the People's Palace yesterday afternoon. The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister, and Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process.

The talks dealt with the Middle East peace process. Mr. Christopher presented ideas he brought with him related to the peace process and its developments. The two sides discussed all aspects of these ideas.

The president explained Syria's viewpoint, reiterating Syria's seriousness in the work to achieve the objective of the peace process in accordance with the foundations on which this process has been based since the beginning, in order to reach a just and comprehensive peace.

In statements to journalists following his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad last night, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said: I spent approximately five hours with President Hafiz al-Asad. This was the longest meeting I had with his excellency. The meeting was constructive. During the meeting, the basis was laid down to advance the peace process in the future. He added: I brought some ideas and briefed President Hafiz al-Asad on them. We discussed the factors that would resolve the problem, as well as the parties' needs and stands vis-a-vis the peace process.

Answering a question, Mr. Christopher said: We discussed the peace process and the possibility of advancing toward the clear objective of the Madrid conference. Answering a question on the reaction to the ideas he brought with him, Christopher said: We cannot involve the press in the reaction. It should be discussed with the concerned parties. He noted that the United States cannot perform its role properly if it reveals the stands of the parties.

Answering another question, Christopher said: We believe there is a common ground, namely, comprehensive peace only is the best solution to end tension in southern Lebanon. We seriously discussed this matter today. Answering a question on the date of resuming the talks, Mr. Christopher said: The United States will maintain its contacts with the parties. I do not want to give dates or any specific time framework. However, I expect to return in the near future.

Damascus Radio Commentaries on Christopher's Visit

Mission Faces 'Difficult' Test

JN0508150094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Syria has always supported a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Seeking such peace and defending its foundations based on the resolutions of international legitimacy continues to be a strategy that distinguishes the Syrian policy. This policy's only condition is that peace should be sustainable and viable—a peace through which the occupation is eliminated, everyone's dignity is achieved, all rights are restored, and the usurped Arab territories are returned to their legitimate owners.

This fact was sensed and expressed by U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher, both at the Geneva summit and during the U.S. secretary of state's tours of the region. All of the statements by U.S. President Clinton and Secretary Christopher pointed to Syria's interest in peace and aspiration for its success. Moreover, these statements also pointed to the fact that there are obstacles and difficult issues between Syria and Israel that must be overcome.

It is easy for the observer to see that since the Madrid conference, the obstacles that the peace process has faced—obstructing it and forcing it to a stalemate—are Israeli obstacles. These obstacles manifest themselves in Israel's refusal to adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy, on which the U.S. initiative and the Madrid conference were based, as well as the land-for-peace principle, which was formulated by the U.S. sponsor. The U.S. sponsor formulated this principle out of its recognition of the essence of international resolutions, which stipulate a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

From this premise, in order to push Christopher's new mission forward and thus advance the peace process toward its desired objective, Israel must abandon the policy of prevarication and procrastination and stop placing obstacles in the way of progress. This also requires a clear Israeli commitment to a comprehensive and full withdrawal from the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon. Otherwise, this process will continue to revolve in a vicious circle and all international efforts to achieve this desired objective will prove futile.

The road to peace is clear. Taking this road requires a belief in the importance of peace to this region, which has suffered for far too long. Peace cannot be real unless it is established on the foundations on which the peace talks were originally launched.

In light of these facts, Christopher's new mission will be put to a difficult and serious test. There will either be a real opportunity to move ahead and extricate the peace process from its deadlock or this process will remain in a dark tunnel, facing Israel's insistence on obstructing it with partial and separate solutions. Developments have shown that these solutions are far from the spirit of justice and comprehensiveness. Hence, they do not constitute a sound foundation for the desired peace acceptable to Syria, Lebanon, and the Arab people.

Pessimism Over Prospects of Tour

JN0708152894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: We have repeatedly said that peace cannot be associated with violence, the use of force, and the perpetration of ceaseless massacres. Similarly, we have maintained that had it actually sought peace. Israel would have halted the policy of making threats, piracy, and mass killing, which it is pursuing in southern Lebanon, and made room for the achievement of real progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. However, it remains to be said that the the kind of progress Israel made on the other tracks of negotiations is well known to us, just as it is well known to Israel. Hence, there is no need to elaborate on this issue.

Can such a policy and such practices facilitate Warren Christopher's tour of the region? Can these practices help his mission and render it a success? Or are these Israeli practices a reflection of the traditional policy Israeli rulers pursue whenever the time for meeting the requirements of peace approaches, or whenever there is a possibility for making progress in the peace talks? Most probably, these Israeli practices are a manifestation of the familiar enmity Israel harbors toward the spirit, purposes, and strategic implications of peace.

We do not believe that anybody on this globe can be ignorant of the true state of affairs in the region, particularly since it has been the focus of attention of various international bodies and agencies for decades. All people are now aware that Israel wants to have both land and peace at the same time. It seeks to drag the Arab sides, one after another, to the Israeli version of peace, according to which border crossing points are opened, and the geographical and historical borderlines are eliminated so that the Israeli version of peace may prevail in the heart of the region without withdrawal from the occupied territories, or compliance with any provision that could lend some balance to the peaceful settlement attained. This cannot serve the region, or promote the interests of its peoples.

Israel will be mistaken if it believes that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations are of the pattern and type it has in mind. For, we have repeatedly opposed, and will continue to oppose forever, any abandonment of territories or rights, and anything that could hurt the sentiments of our people, or undermine their awareness, not to mention their dignity and values, as well as the pan-Arab ethics cherished by generations.

Now that the Israeli evasion of the peace process is continuing, and that Warren Christopher has begun his tour of the region, those optimistic about the possible achievement of certain results should place their bets on the ability of the U.S. envoy to bring something new. The only new development that could make the achievement of peace a strong likelihood is a clear Israeli declaration of full commitment to complete withdrawal from the territories to the pre- June 4, 1967 borders in accordance with the terms of reference agreed upon for the peace process. Likewise, Israel must fulfill its obligations per the relevant UN resolutions governing the peace process. Otherwise, Israel would be wasting our time, as well as the time of the U.S. Administration. Worse still, it would be contributing to the loss of the most important opportunity for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

If Israel is serious about the achievement of just and comprehensive peace, if it has the desire to achieve such peace, then we will achieve true peace. The relevant UN resolutions show us the way to arrive at such peace.

Israeli 'Maneuvers' Seen

JN0608144994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Before the latest tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began, Israeli officials amplified their ambiguous statements concerning the Syrian-Israeli track. This demonstrates that Israel is still adhering to a policy of maneuvering and procrastination in order to evade the requisites of peace.

The declared Israeli desire to resume negotiations with Syria has not been coupled with an announcement of its readiness to fully withdraw from the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon. All that we have heard so far is their usual talk about partial withdrawals and that Israel is not prepared to dismantle all of the settlements or evacuate the settlers and the occupation forces to the 4 June 1967 borders.

While the Israeli officials remain uncommitted to clear statements about full withdrawal and full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, they raise their voices calling for a promotion in the level of negotiations and for secret talks in order to conclude partial deals that have been, are still, and will continue to be rejected by Syria. Syria entered the peace process with a clear vision and with open and courageous steps that fall in line with its strategic choice to work for just and comprehensive peace that returns to the Arabs all their land and rights.

Undoubtedly, these Israeli ideas do not lead to optimism about the results of Christopher's new tour—this mission that is supposed to advance the peace process a step closer to the aspired peace, which should be just and comprehensive, and toward ending the stalemate of the peace process caused by the intransigent Israeli positions, which have wasted more than two and a half years without presenting anything that will help realize a just and comprehensive peace in implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the essence of the U.S. initiative, based on the land-for-peace principle.

Israel continues to make its ambiguous statements, which are meant for public consumption and propaganda purposes. If Israel has benefited from the partial breakthroughs on this or that track, it still holds an illusion about the possibility of making settlements the way it wants to, in accordance with its negotiating mood and its conditions, which demonstrate its expansionist and occupation ambitions.

Syria declared its rejection of secret negotiations and partial deals, and emphasized its commitment to work for a just and comprehensive peace. Syria is not one of those who relinquishes their land or bargains on their rights or pan-Arab rights. Syria calls for the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, which stress the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territories by forces and call for full Israeli withdrawal. Syria believes that Israel's commitment to the bases of the Madrid conference, its terms of reference, and abidance by the resolutions of international legitimacy are the yardstick that should be used to demonstrate whether Israel wants a just and comprehensive peace or not.

Christopher, who comes to the region with hopes to advance the peace process, is aware more anyone else that peace is impossible with the continuation of occupation, and that there will be no peace without the return of all occupied Arab territories, the Golan, and south Lebanon to their legitimate owners. Any fruitful results should be based on this fact, and any other ideas will be a waste of time thanks to Israel's intransigence—a policy that, if continued, will waste this opportunity for peace and expose the region to dangers with greater dimensions and repercussions than anyone can predict, especially in light of the blatant Israeli aggressive escalation in Lebanon.

Papers Comment on Christopher's Tour of Region

AL-THAWRAH on 'Constants'

JN0608074794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-THAWRAH discusses U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's forthcoming tour of the region to continue discussion of the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH explains the foundations of the Syrian position on the peace process and the constants from which Syria proceeds. The paper says: Here, we must underline certain constants that have been stressed before by President Hafiz al-Asad and that have become a characteristic of Syria's position and the guideline of its political move toward peace. We must also underline that there can be no peace without these constants and basic principles. Syria wants the sure peace, the peace that has the basic requirements for continuity, the honorable peace and not the peace of injustice and aggression. The elements and conditions for this kind of peace are well known and stipulated very clearly in the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH says Syria is working for the sake of such a peace and is prepared to do all it can and provide every opportunity to ensure its success and to ensure that it can be established. Syria hopes Christopher will carry with him something to benefit and boost this trend.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that southern Lebanon is exactly like the Golan Heights in Syria's calculations and move toward peace. What applies to the Golan Heights also applies to south Lebanon, the paper adds.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Syria believes only in the honorable, just achievement that has the basic ingredients for continuity and comprehensiveness It wants peace to be in harmony with its declared constants and principles because this is the only kind of peace that can preserve national dignity. Otherwise, Syria is not in a hurry and will not be standing in line, as President al-Asad has said.

In the "AL-THAWRAH Issues" column, AL-THAWRAH stresses that whenever the essential conditions and appropriate circumstances necessary to allow the peace process to break out of the vicious circle and move toward its declared objective—just and comprehensive peace, particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks—Israel resorts to intransigence or aggression to obstruct the peace process and prevent it from moving toward its desired objective, in an attempt to destroy it and deflect it in the direction of secret and direct talks to reach partial agreements like the Oslo and Washington agreements. These agreements have not realized any of the pillars of the just and comprehensive peace which the peace process seeks to achieve. Instead, they compromised the national issue.

AL-THAWRAH adds: To ensure that Christopher's current visit will not be just another in the series of his visits to the region, and to ensure that it achieves its objective to boost the peace process toward its desired objective, the United States must, in its capacity as a full partner and a fair broker, take serious and effective steps. The United States is, of course, able to prevent Israel from continuing its aggression against South Lebanon and continue its bloody suppression of our people's struggle in the occupied Arab territories. It can also force Israel into accepting the most important components of a just and comprehensive peace for the region's problem, represented in complete withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, with Jerusalem at the top of the list.

Daily on Israeli 'Aggression'

JN0608085494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN today discusses the objectives of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon on the backdrop of Israel's bloody massacre in Dayr al-Zahrani in south Lebanon.

TISHRIN says Israel's savage attack against Lebanon is designed to abort Secretary of State Christopher's mission. Israel also wants to flex its muscles in the face of Syria and Lebanon, which have announced their rejection of partial solutions and separate deals.

The paper says: In these aggressive acts, the Israeli leaders are missing the goal. Syria and Lebanon are determined to regain their occupied territory in full and implement UN Security Council Resolution 242, 338, and 425. Israel's practices will only strengthen their adherence to the desired just peace and the comprehensive solution to the region's crisis. Regardless of how far it goes in its aggressions and tyranny, Israel will not be able to infringe on Syria-Lebanese solidarity, or on the two countries' common fate and their common view of the future and the solution.

TISHRIN adds: Israel's aggression casts doubts on the U.S. secretary's mission and places obstacles and hurdles on the path of that mission, especially since Syria and Lebanon realize that as much as they seek to achieve the just peace, they adhere to regaining their land in full and to regaining all their rights, violated by Israel on every occasion in contravention of the most basic international principles and laws.

TISHRIN concludes: Israel's aggression did not come as a surprise to Lebanon or Syria. Both countries are convinced that Israel does not seek just and honorable peace, but distorted, incomplete settlements that will only complicate matters. This is because Israel realizes that all the agreements it signed have no future unless they win Syria's support. It now employs pressure and aggression against Lebanon. It, however, missed the goal like it did in the past. Syria does not yield to pressure and will not swerve a single inch from the goal of the just and comprehensive peace, or from its and Lebanon's right to regain all of the occupied territories.

AL-BA'TH on Israeli Attacks

JN0708091894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial, AL-BA'TH stresses that Israel's policy of deception and maneuvering is nothing but a clear evasion of peace and its requirements, which have received unanimous world support. Through almost daily statements, the world stresses that a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and all occupied Arab territories.

AL-BA'TH says this world conviction stems from faith in the soundness of the Syrian position, which has not been shaken by Israeli penetrations of the peace process. One way or another, this conviction stresses the importance of the role of the U.S. sponsor, who has repeatedly announced he is after a just, comprehensive peace.

The paper indicates this is not the first time that the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region coincides with Israeli attacks on civilians in Lebanon. Nor is it the first time that the U.S. secretary of state has announced that he does not expect surprises on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, because he is fully aware that Israel still adheres to its known policies, which are far removed from the bases and principles of the peace process.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says a just, comprehensive peace cannot be achieved by words, but by acts that should be preceded by an explicit Israeli commitment to full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. Until now, Rabin has failed to do this.

In one of its comments, AL-THAWRAH discusses Israel's brutal practices and attacks in southern Lebanon. The paper says: The escalating and continued Israeli terrorism, be it in the occupied Arab territories or in southern Lebanon, is the other face of the Tel Aviv rulers' policies and one of the mines deliberately detonated by the Rabin government to coincide with every U.S. move in the region and with every separatist deal it concludes. This terrorist policy is the alternative to the policy of settlement building with which the Shamir government used to welcome the former chief U.S. diplomat, James Baker. First and foremost, terrorist practices are an aggressive escalation and a full crime that is committed in broad daylight with the aim of obstructing and undermining peace.

The paper says that southern Lebanon was and still is the gap through which Israel tries to infiltrate in order to evade the requirements of a peaceful settlement and to shirk its commitments. Israel is also still using southern Lebanon as a card for bargains and for exercising pressures on Lebanon to impose its terms on it and to force it to disengage itself from Syria, Lebanon's pan-Arab depth. Consequently, Israel aims to allure Lebanon into capitulationist positions, partial deals, and separate solutions.

The paper says that Lebanon has made itself clear in this regard; it refuses to compromise its territory, water, and right to resistance, to which it adheres until the full liberation of its southern part from occupation. Lebanon also insists on the linkage between the two tracks and on cooperation, coordination, and brotherly cohesion with Syria. Lebanon is aware of the dangers of separatist deals. It realizes that coordination is the guarantee for facing up to the challenge and attaining a just, comprehensive peace.

Concluding its comment, AL THAWRAH stresses that Syria's political approach is firm and principled. It has not changed nor will it change. Unless peace is just and comprehensive and is based on full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and other occupied Arab territories, it cannot be an acceptable or durable peace.

Discussing the Israeli escalation in southern Lebanon, TISHRIN says that by escalating the situation in southern Lebanon, Israel aims to divert Christopher's tour from its objectives. This would be by keeping him preoccupied with the situation in the south instead of focusing his efforts on achieving progress on the peace process or at least pushing it in the direction which would guarantee placing it on the sound path—the path of a just, comprehensive solution. The paper adds that it is not new for Israel to explode the situation in the south, for this has become an indivisible part of Israel's policy of stalling, if not undermining, the peace process. All events prove that Israel does not want a peace that starts with ending its occupation of Arab territories. Nor does it want the region to enjoy security, calm, and stability. Israel refuses to respond to the political peace efforts or to be committed to the UN resolutions and the bases of the peace process. Israel's insistence on keeping the occupied Arab territories, casting doubts on the Madrid conference formula, and refusing to implement the principle of exchanging land for peace, TISHRIN says, explicitly prove that Israel still believes that through aggression, terrorism, repression, and expansion, it can force the Arabs to cede their rights and relinquish their territory.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: He who wants peace does not kill peace through bombardment and escalation, nor does he exercise destruction, annihilation, massacres, and killing of innocent people. Only one way leads to peace: Full and immediate termination of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights, the implementation of UN resolutions, response to the U.S. initiative and its principles, and exchanging land for peace. This has been stressed by the Madrid formula as a prerequisite for arriving at a just, comprehensive peace.

Al-Asad-Christopher Talks Viewed

JN0808071794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the talks which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held with President Hafiz al-Asad on the Middle East peace process. The paper points out that the U.S. secretary presented ideas on the peace process and its developments. These ideas were discussed from their various aspects. President Hafiz al-Asad explained Syria's viewpoint and its serious position on establishing a just and comprehensive peace according to the bases on which the Madrid conference convened.

TISHRIN notes that Syria's serious position no longer needs confirmation. The U.S. secretary himself has frequently lauded both Syria's eagerness to render the peace process a success and its serious cooperation since the very beginning. The paper says: Syria has explained that full Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories and recognition of the legitimate Arab rights are the road to establishing such a firm and lasting peace. Syria has not deviated by a hair-breadth from its position.

TISHRIN adds: We do not believe that there are people in the world who do not sympathize with Syria's demand that Israel should completely withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon, end its occupation of the territories of both fraternal countries, and implement the relevant Security Council resolutions in a way that will achieve justice, consecrate international law and the UN charters, and terminate both Israel's belligerence in the region and its circumvention of international norms and principles.

TISHRIN emphasizes that the Golan has eternally been Syrian territory, that southern Lebanon is an indivisible part of that fraternal country, and that there is no alternative to regaining the Golan and southern Lebanon and to Israel's compliance with the Security Council resolutions, which do not permit occupation, forcible annexation of territories, or building settlements on these territories.

Concluding, the paper says: Syria, which has actually believed in peace and always complied with international law, cannot be dragged into positions or stands that conflict with its basic rights, with sovereignty over its territories, or with the international law. Israel's compliance with both international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy is the sound way to establish a just, comprehensive, and stable peace in the Middle East.

In the "Opinion" column, the newspaper TISHRIN says: Israel has used the self-rule authority as a pretext to annex and Judaize Jerusalem, consolidate its occupation of the Arab territories, persist in persecuting the Palestinians, seize their lands, and build hundreds of settlements on Palestinian territories throughout the occupied West bank.

In view of this sad situation, the Palestinian people have no option but to continue the confrontation and escalate struggle against the occupation forces.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the continued Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon at a time when there are intensive efforts to search for a peace that will protect the region from evils and dangers. The paper points out that Israel deliberately expands its aggression whenever U.S. diplomacy renews its activity and whenever there is increasing hope for removing the danger posed to the entire region.

AL-BA'TH says: Everyone knows that Israel does not seek peace inasmuch as it tries to impose capitulation on the Arabs, as explained by its numerous attacks that precede, or coincide with, the peace efforts. The paper stresses that in his current tour, the U.S. secretary will only find the familiar Syrian insistence on seeking peace while simultaneously stressing the need for complete implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. These resolutions do not permit the forcible occupation of others' territories and aggression.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Our desire for peace has been honest since we accepted the Madrid conference and the Washington negotiations. Israel, however, is the party that always refuses to be a peaceful party.

In the "With the Events" column, AL-BA'TH discusses the savage Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon, stressing that it is a new link in Israel's official and traditional terrorist policy. The paper says: The recent aggression, which martyred and wounded tens of people and inflicted large material losses, is particularly serious because it first coincided with the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the Middle East and, second, it also coincides with a host of international moves, particularly by the Security Council, to face the volatile events in the world and confront the forces that violate international law and order.

Al-Asad Considering No More Than 'Cold Peace'

AU0808081694 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 8 Aug 94 pp 122-123

[Unattributed article: "Elements of Genius"]

[Text] Egypt's head of state Husni Mubarak has already done some valuable service as a skillful mediator to the Middle East peace process. He has helped, above all, the Israelis and the Palestinians over several obstacles on the path toward reconciliation.

During his latest mission, however, Mubarak does not seem to be rewarded with success. The industrious Egyptian has received a serious dampener from Syrian head of state Hafiz al-Asad, 63. Even though Mubarak had flown in from Cairo to sound out the prospects for a Syrian-Israeli peace, al-Asad rebuked the visitor: "Ask me something simpler."

However, the mediator from the Nile was given a sibyllic answer to accompany him on his trip to a meeting with Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in the Egyptian seaside resort Taba Sunday before last [31 August]. "The path toward peace," the despot of Damascus said oracularly, "is neither a dead end nor an open road."

Al-Asad's ambiguous statements once again confirmed the reputation of the clever tactician as the "Sphinx of Damascus," who loves to pose riddles to friend and foe:

Will the Syrian indeed continue to block peace in the Middle East and perhaps even undermine Israel's reconciliation with Jordan and the Palestinians? Or is the head of state with the strong nerves just playing poker to get the highest possible price for his peace with the hated Zionist entity?

At the end of last week U.S. President Bill Clinton was confident. Al-Asad is "very interested" in peace, Clinton said before he sent Secretary of State Warren Christopher on another Middle East tour.

In his own country al-Asad's position is in no danger. Since the Air Force general and former combat pilot came to power by means of a bloodless coup a quarter of a century ago, he has become an absolute ruler by skill and force.

Al-Asad has always nipped rebellions in the bud. When his most dangerous opponents, the radical Muslim Brethren, rose up in the provincial capital of Hama in

1982, he had the military march in. The army besieged and attacked the town for 17 days. About 30,000 people died in the ruins of Hama.

Thousands of agents make sure that no serious opposition forms. Similarities with the former GDR are no coincidence; the GDR, a close ally of al-Asad, who is oriented toward socialism, trained many of his military officers. At least four intelligence services control the country.

Al-Asad, whose health is blighted by diabetes and two heart attacks, had trained his son Basil to be his successor, so that power would remain within the party and the family. However, since the heir apparent died in an accident, the succession is open.

In foreign policy the head of state, in whom former U.S. President Richard Nixon believed to have recognized "elements of genius" and whose "extraordinary analytical skills" were recently praised by Nixon's shuttle diplomat Henry Kissinger, has proved his enormous flexibility. As if he had never been one of the Soviet Union's closest allies in the Middle East, he has been looking for recognition by the sole superpower the United States since the collapse of the red empire.

Al-Asad's dream of gaining a reputation as a key figure in the peace process suddenly burst last autumn. When PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, whose fraternal kisses the Syrian reportedly detests, concluded his autonomy agreement with Israel, Damascus had to content itself with the role of an onlooker, just as two weeks ago during the Jordanian-Israeli reconciliation.

However, al-Asad, who is said not to accept any peace, believes that the region will not come to rest without his support. "Syria has the most important trump card in his hand," Vice President 'Abd- al-Halim Khaddam boasted during the last visit by Secretary of State Christopher.

The alleged ace up al-Asad's sleeve is Lebanon, whom Syria has under complete control with a "protective force" of 30,000 soldiers. Only with the agreement of Damascus can fighters of the fundamentalist Hizballah (Party of God) fire grenades on settlements in northern Israel from southern Lebanon.

"If Syria's just demands are not fulfilled," the Syrian party newspaper AL-BA'TH threatened, "the war on Israel's northern border will never stop." In the Ba'th ideology, Lebanon, which was taken out of the former Ottoman province of Syria after World War I, must be returned to Syria.

However, for quite some time Damascus has no longer been solely interested in the unconditional and complete return of the Golan Heights, which were occupied by Israel in 1967. Nowadays al-Asad demands from Israel and the United States also the—at least tacit—recognition of his supremacy in Lebanon. He presupposes that Israel will withdraw from the security zone in southern Lebanon, which it has occupied since 1982.

In addition, the United States, as the patron of peace, is now also supposed to lift the ostracism of Syria as a refuge for terrorists. Then the country, which has been weakened by a socialist planned economy, would have better access to Western technologies and cheap international loans.

After a first meeting with Clinton in Geneva in January, the Syrian, who is interested in his international reputation, is now also pressing to be invited to Washington—but without Rabin.

He will not agree to the "humiliating and embarrassing scenes" of a peace ceremony in the White House Garden, al-Asad let it be known via Mubarak: "There will be no handshake with Rabin; I would rather cut my hand off." Al-Asad: "Reconciliation is not possible in my generation."

If anything at all, the Syrian would agree to a "cold peace" (al- Asad). However, before he approves perhaps pioneering secret talks at ministerial level, which Rabin urges, the head of state wants to see at least "clear gestures" from Washington and Jerusalem.

Unlike the Israeli prime minister, who wants to have peace on all the fronts by the beginning of the election campaign at the end of next year, al-Asad does not see himself under the pressure of having to be successful. The Syrian is used to election results similar to those that Honecker got—with or without peace: Most recently, in 1991, he officially won 99.982 percent.

Details of al-Asad-Mubarak Meeting Reported

JN0608173794 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 8 Aug 94 p 6

[Report by Mahmud Bakri in Cairo]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will begin a new tour of the region on 8 August to break the deadlock in the Syrian-Israeli track in light of the failure of his previous tour.

Christopher's only achievement in his previous tour was that he managed to convince each party to outline its views on the interests of the other party. Syria would thus outline its view of peace and security, while Israel would outline its view of withdrawal, its timing, and stages. The U.S. secretary said this achievement, though limited, would end the problem of who takes the first step.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit a couple of weeks ago to Damascus and his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad came within this context. AL-MUHARRIR, through its sources in Cairo, has obtained the minutes of this meeting, particularly with regard to Christopher's tour and its effects on the Syrian-Israeli track. The minutes can be summed up in the following:

The Egyptian president began to speak, noting that he hoped that Christopher's tour had achieved results satisfactory to Syria regarding peace.

Al-Asad replied: I think, brother Mubarak, that you have observed, along with us, the developments in the peace process. Christopher told me that he had come to the region especially to bring our views and those of the Israelis closer. He conveyed a letter from President Clinton to me in which Clinton expressed his extreme interest in our track and saying that he hoped to meet with me soon. Clinton also said he hoped this meeting would not be confined to just the two of us and would include the Israeli prime minister. It seemed that Christopher knew about this, because he told me that his country is eagerly awaiting this meeting. I answered him, saying that he was starting from the end and talking about conclusions without there being introductions.

Mubarak: The Americans insist on developing a form of direct negotiations.

Al-Asad: This is their business. I hope this will happen, but within an acceptable framework and clear commitments.

Al-Asad told Mubarak: I want to keep you informed because I know that the Americans will approach you and ask you to talk us into this, since they know that we are good friends.

Al-Asad went on: Christopher did not convey specific ideas. He told me that he wanted to develop the form of the present ideas and that we should agree to a new way of addressing the spirit and substance of the ideas that had been exchanged during his previous tours. I told him that the problem did not lie in suggesting new ideas or addressing old ideas. The problem is: Is there anything new in the form and foundations of the peace process that differs from what was agreed upon at the Madrid conference? His answer was no. So I said: There is no problem then, unless the Israelis think otherwise. He told me that he wanted to separate the principles of the peace process and its specifics, particularly with regard to the Syrian-Israeli track. I replied that principles lead to specifics and that specifics are the results of principles. Since we have accepted the Madrid conference as a basis of the peace process, then we accept the principles, and since we agreed to talk to you, then we agree to discuss specifics.

Al-Asad added: I said that I believe that principles and details cannot be separated and that Israel's procrastination is aimed at wasting time. Christopher wanted to satisfy the Israelis by making us approve the details and bypass the principles.

I asked him: What are the details on which you want to hold talks? I did not give him the chance to answer, and I went on: The details, in our view, include three issues: The first is total and final withdrawal. I also told him that withdrawal should not be confined to the Golan Heights but should also take southern Lebanon into account. He asked me to put Lebanon aside at present and said he would discuss it later.

Mubarak: The Americans informed me that peace cannot be achieved on the Lebanese track without Syria, and they know you will reject any peace formula without Lebanon.

Al-Asad: This is true, and when he said "later," Christopher meant a postponement of this point. The second pertains to the security arrangements, and I told him that these arrangements should include Syria and Lebanon.

The third pertains to the details of the peace process.

Al-Asad added: Regarding withdrawal, we can talk about an acceptable and not an imposed timetable for the withdrawal. It is not logical for them to propose eight or 10 years under the pretext of a lack of confidence.

Al-Asad defined the [Israeli] priorities as follows:

- 1. Details of the political and economic aspects of the peace process.
- 2. Discussing steps to normalize relations.
- 3. Discussing security arrangements.
- 4. The idea of withdrawal.

President al-Asad commented on what was conveyed by President Mubarak, and said: They insist on reversing the concepts. How can we make the withdrawal the last stage while it constitutes the main problem?

He added: I asked Christopher the following question: Were peaceful relations the main problem between the Syrians and the Israelis, and were these relations severed for reasons other than the war and the occupation? Christopher did not deny that after I insisted on a reply from him. He said: The basic problem is the lack of confidence. I told him: The basic problem is the occupation, which should be followed by withdrawal, and the issue of confidence or the lack of it is another problem. He then proposed that these issues be discussed in detail. I said: The problem does not pertain to the details and principles. Will the Israelis declare their readiness to carry out a total and final withdrawal from Golan and Lebanon? He said that the Israeli foreign minister had announced this. I said to him: The Israeli foreign minister's statement contained nothing new because the Israelis talk about withdrawal from time to time and even Rabin himself said he was ready for withdrawal. What I want to hear from the Israelis is steps toward withdrawal and how they will be applied and realized.

Mubarak: As far as I know, there is a suggestion to develop the form of direct negotiations.

Al-Asad: Yes, this was also suggested. Christopher wants us to begin in the next stage to upgrade the level of negotiations to be at the level of foreign ministers. He also supports having one secret channel for negotiations and another public channel. This is the viewpoint of the Israelis.

Mubarak: Why don't you try this, brother Hafiz al-Asad?

Al-Asad: My brother Mubarak, I do not want to imitate others, even if they achieve results through this channel. The Americans are also enthusiastic about this idea, just like you. However, before agreeing to this, we must agree on the basis and the substance. We and the Israelis have diametrically opposed views in this regard. Others are willing to offer concessions. This is why they have agreed to secret negotiations with the Israelis. However, we are not willing to do that. We either get our rights in full or find another way.

Mubarak: But what are the issues you think are necessary for agreement?

Al-Asad: I mentioned these to Christopher, and I think they are necessary to develop the form of negotiations. These are:

- 1. We and the Lebanese will form one negotiating team, since Syria and Lebanon are inseparable.
- 2. The idea of deploying international forces concerning the security arrangements. Here, I assume that we are through with the priority of comprehensive and full withdrawal.
- 3. Demarcating borders.
- 4. Normalization. There must be general principles to agree on this point.

Mubarak commented: I think such points can be resolved and agreed on during the talks.

Al-Asad: There has to be a general agreement, which forms the basis. Therefore, when Christopher told me that the Israelis are asking specific questions and think these questions are an alternative to the previous points, I told him that these questions are not new and that Israel knows what we think of these questions. However, he asked us to prepare our answers in a specific and official paper, and we will send this to the U.S. State Department within a few days. Our reply will, in general, concentrate on the concept of commitment to a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal and the concept of equal security guarantees. In addition, we will state that the concept of peace, as we view it, is a comprehensive peace that follows comprehensive withdrawal.

Mubarak: I think the basic idea is how to bring views closer and arrange priorities.

Al-Asad: We told Christopher that we are not complicating matters or creating obstacles and differences. We told him that we are willing to continue to cooperate with the United States to the largest extent possible. We also said this cooperation must be linked to the foundations of the peace process that were spelled out in Madrid and to the Security Council resolutions. I think Christopher was satisfied to hear this, because when he returned to Damascus, he told me that he had asked the Israelis to cooperate. He also told them that the Syrians are willing to cooperate. He conveyed to me Israel's view that Syria must place emphasis on confidence-building measures with the Israelis. I told Christopher: Israel is the one that should do this. Christopher added that the Israelis want to cooperate with them in eradicating the opponents of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and destroying the Lebanese resistance. In brief, they want us to play a role that satisfies them as a confidence-building measure. The Israeli confidence-building theory is based on the following:

- 1. They want to make sure that they normalize relations with us before withdrawal is over.
- 2. Gradual security measures and accompanying security agreements. The purpose of this point is to lengthen the time frame of withdrawal.

However, we have agreed to outline our view of peace and security. Christopher told us that Israel will draft a memorandum on withdrawal, its timing, and stages. He thinks the first step will begin afterward. He told me that Israel will declare its commitment to withdrawal from the Golan in line with international resolutions. We, of course, will declare our desire to have comprehensive peace with Israel. This will be linked to the Lebanese track as well. Christopher said: If this happens, then I think the next stage will witness a real change in the shape of the peace track with the Israelis. Christopher added: If there is an agreement of views in the two memorandums, then arranging priorities will become the main issue.

Chief of Staff Reiterates Position on Peace

JN0608170594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Aleppo—Under the auspices of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander-in-chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, a ceremony for the graduation of a new class of officers of al-Asad Military Engineering Faculty was held today.

The ceremony was patronized on behalf of the president by Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chairman of the General Staff of the Army and the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

The lieutenant general, who represented the commander-in-chief, delivered a speech in which he first conveyed the congratulations of the president and his wishes of success for the graduates. [passage omitted]

The lieutenant general then spoke about Syria's firm position on the peace process in the region under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. He said President al-Asad has emphasized that we will not relinquish our rights and we will not bargain over our occupied territories. On this basis we seek peace.

He referred to what President al-Asad said about waging the battle for peace with the same capabilities with which we have waged our military battles, and how our position on peace will be no less courageous than those on the battlefields. Our support for peace does not mean acceptance of the peace that Israel wants to impose on the

Arab parties, nor does it mean accepting anything less than what the concept of a just peace and its various dimensions entail. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Intifadah Continues During Occupation

JN0608092794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "Opinion" column, TISHRIN says: As long as the Israeli occupation continues, it is only natural for the intifadah to continue. It is also natural for popular support for the intifadah to continue since it represents the popular will to resist Israeli occupation. The limited self-rule agreement cannot be thought of as something that will help end the resistance operations. This self-rule did not end occupation, but, from the intifadah viewpoint, it aided and complemented the occupation.

This fact was demonstrated in recent weeks when the self-rule officials themselves began to speak publicly of the mistake they committed by signing the agreement and the dilemma into which Israel has put them. Some of them have even said Israel is humiliating them every day and that the agreement cannot survive.

NPF Issues Statement on 24 Aug Elections

JN0608162094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Aug 94

["Text" of a statement issued by the Central Command of the National Progressive Front "on the elections of the sixth legislative term of the National Assembly" on 6 August]

[Text] The blessed Corrective Movement, led by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad on 16 November 1970, has always expressed the people's aspirations and the nation's objectives. Freedom, democracy, reinforcing national unity, and building democratic institutions were at the top of the list of objectives the Corrective Movement worked to achieve through continuous endeavors in order to provide the appropriate circumstances for fostering its success.

The Corrective Movement has always been loyal to its principles and faithful to the people's objectives and aspirations. The movement kept its pledge and established the People's Assembly, which was the free choice of our masses and a democratic platform, expressing the people's interests and national and pan-Arab objectives.

The revolution of the glorious Corrective Movement was very concerned with democratic popular institutions. It established popular organizations, trade unions, and local councils and gave each party its rights. Thus, all popular sectors have participated in building the homeland and safeguarding the citizens' gains.

Today, our Syrian Arab society, which enjoys cohesive national unity, also enjoys security, peace, stability, progress, freedom, and democracy. Al-Asad's Syria, the state of institutions and democracy, receives respect and appreciation from its nation and the world.

O masses of our people: The Syria of the Arabs has reiterated its commitment to the process of a just and comprehensive peace, based on the principles of international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, proceeding from its national and pan-Arab constants to preserve the nation's interests and historical rights. Syria seeks an honorable peace that guarantees the restoration of rights and full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory.

O brother citizens: Nominations for the sixth term of the People's Assembly have ended. All of us are called upon to go to the polls on 24 August to elect the people's representatives in this constitutional institution, which represents the legislative branch and constitutes one of the most important popular democratic pillars in our country and a strong framework for our national unity. In each of its previous terms, the People's Assembly was the body that clearly demonstrated cohesive national unity, as well as political and economic pluralism.

The People's Assembly represents you and your will. Its tasks, which are great and many, deal with your daily concerns as well as with your national and pan-Arab issues. This assembly represents your voice in the executive branch in terms of monitoring, calling to account, orientation, improving, building, and giving. Great stands need great men. Elect those whom you think are great. Men are only great in terms of conduct, awareness, and commitment.

O masses of our people: When we present the lists of the National Progressive Front [NPF] we present lists of efficient candidates. We hope they will be qualified to represent your will and gain your confidence. Electing the front's candidates will contribute more momentum to the march, because those candidates are from you and for you.

The National Progressive Front, which stemmed from your ranks and has represented your social sectors, reiterates its commitment to your interests and objectives. It has remained faithful to you under all circumstances and will remain your faithful support. It will also remain loyal to the principles and values of freedom and democracy entrenched in our national and pan-Arab life by our great Arab leader struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

Assembly Election Candidates List To Be Published

JN0608150494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah has made a statement to a correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, on the upcoming elections. He said: The nomination committees of the election constituencies have completed their scrutiny and examination of the nomination applications submitted for the People's Assembly elections for the sixth legislative term and they have announced the final list of names of applicants whose nomination applications have been accepted. Thus, any candidate who has obtained the final receipt from the governor of the election constituency in which he is running is entitled to embark on his election campaign activities in accordance with the provisions enshrined in the Election Law and the regulations issued in this regard.

Dr. Harbah added: The ministry has prepared lists of the names of the accepted candidates in all election constituencies for Sector A—workers and peasants—and Sector B—other categories of people. These name lists will be published in local newspapers tomorrow morning, Sunday.

Saudi, Gulf Investment in Refinery Agreed

MM0508112894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Aug 94 p9

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Syria: Approval in Principle of Plan for an Oil Refinery Financed by Gulf Investors"]

[Text] Damascus—Syria has taken another step toward permitting Arab investment in strategic industries. The Higher Investment Council, headed by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, has agreed in principle to allow Saudi and Gulf investors to build an oil refinery in Syria on the basis of joint ownership, with the oil ministry owning 25 percent and the investors the rest.

Syrian sources have stated that, in theory, the refinery's capacity will be 150 tonnes of petroleum products a day. The estimated maximum production capacity of the Hims and Baniyas refineries is 11 tonnes but they can only produce 3 million at the first and 6 million at the second. [figures as published]

The sources told AL-HAYAH that the government asked the investors to submit a detailed economic feasibility study. They estimated the refinery would cost $150 million but declined to give any more details.

Afghanistan

Groups Reject Presidential Term Extension

LD0708175094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Following the extension of Borhanoddin Rabbani's presidential term at a meeting of a number of Afghan mojahedin groups, the Afghan Coordination Council—comprising the Mojahedin groups of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and Jonbesh-e Melli-ye Eslami [National Islamic Movement]—announced that the decisions of that session are not legally binding and that a session will soon be held at Jalalabad to determine Afghanistan's political fate.

Meanwhile, in an interview with our correspondent, our country's ambassador in Kabul announced: The policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran on developments in Afghanistan are based on the participation of all mojahedin groups in the political structure of that country and on obtaining total agreement between all the leaders of mojahedin groups.

Mr. Haddadi stressed that in the course of implementing that policy, Iran recently held meetings with leaders of mojahedin groups, and the president and prime minister of Afghanistan.

Stressing that Iran's humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan will continue, the Iranian ambassador in Kabul said: Alongside other forms of aid, a public vaccination project will soon be implemented by Iranian volunteers in Afghanistan.

Kabul Seeks UN To Curb Aid to Factions

BK0808110394 Hong Kong AFP in English 1044 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 8 (AFP)—Afghanistan Monday called for the stationing of United Nations observers to monitor the flow of foreign military assistance to rival factions engaged in a bloody struggle for power.

The UN should appoint its observers and devise a mechanism to monitor the war-ravaged country's borders, Afghan president Borhanoddin Rabbani's special envoy Mas'ud Khalili told a news conference here.

Khalili reiterated Kabul's line that its northern neighbour Uzbekistan was helping the militia of ethnic Uzbek warlord 'Abdol Rashid Dostam.

"The flow of foreign military help is worrying us," he said.

The former communist General Dostam staged an abortive coup against Rabbani on January 1 and fighting has been raging since then. Rabbani's arch foe Golboddin Hekmatyar of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction has been fighting alongside Dostam to topple the administration in Kabul. More than 4,000 people have died and 21,000 been injured in the fighting so far.

In February, with the fighting at its peak, Dostam had planes refueled in Uzbekistan while military convoys comprising tanks and weapons arrived at the rebel general's base from the former Soviet republic, Khalili said.

"We have asked the UN to devise a mechanism as soon as possible," to curb such interventions, he added.

Khalili denied as "absolutely incorrect" reports from the rival groups that Rabbani's faction was receiving military help from Pakistan's traditional rival India.

He admitted that the Afghan air force needed spare parts for its aircraft, but he said if Kabul desired it could go directly to Russia for the parts.

Blaming an "invisible hand" for the propaganda carried in the Pakistan press, he said there may be elements seeking to spoil relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

He confirmed that India had asked to open consulates in Jalalabad bordering Pakistan and Herat on Iranian frontier. Kabul will consider the requests on merit but "we can say no if we find it not practical," Khalili said.

The presidential envoy who is to meet Pakistan Government officials during his stay, said there had been no deviation in President Rabbani's policy on Pakistan's dispute with India over Kashmir.

"We have not changed our policy," he said adding that the Kashmiris be given the right to self-determination and "the UN should take the issue very seriously."

He expressed the hope that the committee formed at the recently concluded Herat conference of Afghan commanders, governors and intellectuals would be able to convene the Loya Jirga (traditional Afghan assembly) for the transfer of power by the end of October.

Rabbani has already made it clear that he would not be a candidate and his party would not seek power, he added.

The 65-member committee is currently discussing modalities of convening the Jirga, he said hoping that eight other factional leaders who had boycotted the Herat conference would cooperate to end the ongoing bloodshed.

'Neutral' Delegation Leaves for Kabul Talks

LD0608201594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] A delegation of parties that are neutral in the current fighting in Afghanistan left Peshawar for Kabul today, where its members will hold talks with Borhanoddin Rabbani, Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, and other Afghan leaders about holding a seminar in Jalalabad in the next few days. The delegation is hoping to convene the seminar in order to find a solution to the Afghan crisis.

New Army Commander Appointed for Northern Zone

LD0508164094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Following a proposal by the Ministry of Defense and by a decree issued by esteemed Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, esteemed Mohammad Naser Formuly, son of Mowlana Wali Mohammad, at the rank of lieutenant general, has been appointed the operational commander of the northern zone.

20 Rockets, Mortars Said Fired on Kabul

LD0608162294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] The Golboddin-Dostam militias today fired 20 rockets and mortar shells on Kabul city. A Kabul garrison spokesman told a BIA correspondent that the attack resulted in 19 innocent citizens being martyred and 20 others injured. There was also heavy material damage.

Defeats Said Inflicted on Opposition Militia

LD0708192694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Mojahedin and Islamic army forces last night captured six Golboddin-Dostam militia security posts in Kowt-e 'Ashrow and inflicted heavy loss of life on the militia. During the operation a quantity of heavy and light weapons was captured by the forces of the Islamic army. According to another report, fighters of the country's Air Force bombarded positions of the Dostam-Golboddin militia in the area surrounding Dowshi. Dozens of the militia were either killed or injured and several vehicles were destroyed.

India

Mauritian Minister Cites Regional Economic 'Void'

BK0708144194 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 5 Aug 94 p 4

[Text] Mauritius is willing to call a meeting of the core countries which have shown an interest in the Indian Ocean Rim concept, once it is clear in its own mind about the concept, according to Mauritius Minister for External Affairs A.S. Kasenally.

Addressing a Press conference on Thursday, on the conclusion of the official part of his visit to India, Mr. Kasenally said that Mauritius sees the Indian Ocean Rim concept as a "loose organisation for economic and trade cooperation". The Mauritius Government had set up a high-powered committee of officials to consider all aspects of the concept.

In the post Cold War, post-GATT era, there was a move for economic groupings like NAFTA [North American Free Trade Act] and APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Council], Mr. Kasenally said, and there was a void in the Indian Ocean area. Countries bordering the Indian Ocean have an interest on how to coordinate their efforts. Mr. Kasenally said he had discussions with Indian leaders on the subject in Delhi.

The Mauritius External Affairs Minister exuded confidence that there would a satisfactory resolution of the Diego Garcia issue in the Indian Ocean in the near future. "Things are evolving fast" on the Chagos Archipeleago-Diego Garcia issue. "We are confident and committed to retrieving what is logically, rightfully and naturally ours," he added.

Mr. Kasenally pointed to the recent UK-Mauritius agreement on marine and fisheries resources of the archipelago which, he said, was an important confidence-building measure between the two countries on the issue. It was after the signing of the agreement that he and his colleague from the Fisheries Ministry had visited Diego Garcia, the first visit by a Mauritius Minister since the country gained independence in 1968.

The UK authorities had said that the island would be used as a naval base only till it was needed for western interests, but now, no one knew what the western interests were, the Minister said. The marine agreement involved collaboration on stopping any irreversible damage to the ecology without the question of sovereignity being involved.

Mauritius was keen on developing foreign, particularly Indian, investment in its new freeport zone and its off-shore banking. Mauritius, which was facing a manpower shortage, was also interested in upgrading its technology with Indian assistance ta higher technology, requiring less manpower. Agricultural biotechnology was another area where there was potential for cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Kasenally called on President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and spoke of the regional economic groups in which Mauritius had an interest. Dr Sharma said the changed global economic environment required greater economic cooperation among countries, particularly those of the developing world. They also discussed the importance of strengthening multi-racial and pluralistic nations.

Editorial Outlines 'Agenda' for U.S. Envoy

BK0708151094 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 4 Aug 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Agenda for an Envoy"]

[Text] If there has been something noteworthy in Indo-American relations in the past few weeks it is the absence of controversial or offensive statements causing a strain on ties between the two countries. Such a trend set in just before Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao prepared himself to visit Washington to meet President Clinton about two months ago. The trend has held, so that with U.S. Ambassador Frank W. Wisner presenting his credentials to President S. D. Sharma there is a reasonable expectation that Indo-U.S. relations would now be on the mend. It is quite erroneous to assume that ties between the world's only super power and the most populous democracy could be determined by a single individual, Mr. Wisner in this instance. Less so, because he did cause a few eyebrows to be raised in India during his Senate confirmation hearing when he advised New Delhi against deploying the Prithvi missiles. Mr. Wisner's advice to the Pentagon has been a major input for Washington's strategic policy towards South Asia. It should therefore be hoped that Indo-U.S. relations would be built along the lines which apparently were agreed upon during the Clinton-Rao summit. Mr. Wisner is expected to know what these lines were, and he should not redraw them.

At the credential presentation ceremony, Mr. Wisner referred to the "misinterpretation and misunderstandings" which have strained Indo-U.S. relations. And yet, he did not hesitate to refer to the nuclear issue over which the misunderstandings have been the most apparent. On the other hand, India and the U.S. have come pretty close in recent years in the matter of economic cooperation. Looking back, it is easy to see that Indo-American economic relations grew on a promising note under the Bush Administration but were threatened with severe damage when the Clinton presidency began to emphasise political issues like Kashmir, Punjab, and human rights in its India policy. Now that Ambassador Wisner has taken note of the beneficial fall-out of the Indo-U.S. economic relations, it would be wise for the two governments to concentrate on this aspect of their cooperation. The hiatus between New Delhi and Washington on nuclear and missile questions remains unbridged, and is likely to remain so in the foreseeable future. Mr. Wisner's assignment in India will be viewed positively if he succeeds in promoting close economic cooperation between India and the U.S. which must necessarily assume an adequate flow of technology to this country. This will be possible only if the U.S. reposes trust in India in the application of dual-use technology. With his vast experience in strategic matters, Mr. Wisner is well-placed to advise his government whether India can be trusted with a measure of military might to ensure regional stability, or whether it should be maimed before it becomes a "threat" to peace. On test is Washington's political trust.

Iran

Velayati on ICO Session on Bosnia-Herzegovina

NC0608070294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] contact group concluded its extraordinary session in Geneva and once again called for a cessation of Serb atrocities against the Bosnian Muslims and the lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati returned last night from the ICO session and spoke to our correspondent on the results:

[Begin Velayati recording] Some of the decisions that were made were new ones. The most important one was that for the first time the Islamic countries clearly stressed that if the Security Council does not take any serious measures to prevent Serb attacks on Muslims or if the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims is not lifted, the Islamic countries will make it possible for the Bosnian Muslims to defend themselves in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

This is a new decision. Another proposal to the UN Security Council by the Islamic countries was to step up some sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro by the international community, such as blocking their assets abroad and cutting off their communication links. These are the new proposals and are in addition to the previous ones, which are described collectively as economic embargoes. [end recording]

Continuing his remarks, Dr. Velayati referred to another decision adopted at the session. He added: According to this decision, the ICO contact group heads would meet again to assess the situation and hold final consultations on increasing the assistance to the Bosnian people. Regarding the cooperation between the ICO and Western contact groups to resolve the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis, Velayati said that the prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina is making efforts so that a representative of Islamic countries can attend the session of the Western countries' contact group so that its decisions can be international. This was accepted by the Islamic countries.

NATO Attack on Bosnian Serbs Termed 'Futile'

LD0808100994 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—A morning daily Monday termed the latest attack of the NATO forces against Bosnian Serbs as a small-scale move to calm down Islamic countries. The daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in a political commentary on the Friday air strike of NATO forces on Bosnian Serbs in which apparently 16 jet fighters were involved, said that only a tank or as the Serbs have claimed a truck was targeted during the attack.

The paper said that the futile attack which was given a coverage by western media broader than their reports on military siege of Sarajevo by the criminal Serbs was in fact a deceitful maneuver aimed at misleading the public opinion. The attack was carried out simultaneously with the meeting of foreign ministers of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization] in Geneva held to discuss lifting of arms sanctions on Bosnia.

The commentary said that the West in general and the Americans in particular had never any good-will in their attacks against the Serbs. Even an American newspaper has admitted that the last year attack of U.S. fighters on the Serbs positions and their shooting down of four Serbian planes was aimed at overshadowing the reports on Zionist crime at al-Khalil [Hebron] mosque, it added.

The paper said that in fact the Bosnian crisis turned to a horrifying catastrophe when the Serbs realized that the west would never oppose their strategy in Bosnia. The performance of the west in Bosnia during the past two years is a proof to this reality, said the commentary.

It concluded by saying that the west's support for Muslim genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina has in fact further emboldened the Serbs to commit more heinous crimes and violate all internationally recognized laws and regulations.

Commentary Urges Lifting Bosnian Arms Embargo

LD0508211894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Unattributed commentary: "The Necessity of Lifting the Arms Embargo Against Bosnia"]

[Text] The contact group of the Organization of Islamic Conference, OIC, [Islamic Conference Organization] on Thursday, 4 August, by issuing a statement addressed to the UN Security Council, called for the stationing of international forces between Bosnia and Serbia. The foreign ministers of the contact group members also urged the UN Security Council Resolution 713 on arms embargo against Bosnia to be declared as not executable. In the said group's statement it has been pointed out that the OIC then would reserve the right for its members and other countries to send defensive equipment to Bosnia. The Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Senegal are members of the OIC contact group. The session of this group, which was held concurrently with the rejection of the Western countries' peace proposal by the Bosnian Serbs and Serbia's decision on cutting off politico-economic relations with them has great significance for this session, which was held at the suggestion of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This can take the necessary actions for the active defense of Bosnian people's right. An attempt to lift the arms embargo against that country will be one of the said measures.

In the meantime it seems that the Western countries' protest against Serbs' decision on rejecting the peace proposal has paved the way for taking steps in favor of the Bosnians. This is while the West, by granting 49 percent of Bosnia's land to the Serbs, has violated the Bosnian people and government's rights, and has left a great part of this country under the occupation of the Serbs. Nevertheless, the rejection of the peace proposal by the Serbs, faced by Belgrade's decision on cutting off politico-economic relations with the Bosnian Serbs, is of great importance considering that presently the Bosnian people enjoy little defensive potentials, political analysts consider the cutting off of Serbia's politico-economic relations with the Bosnian Serbs as a diplomatic gain by Belgrade. According to them, Belgrade, which has been under severe pressure by the international community, acted so to deter further international sanctions against itself. The same analysts believe that the Serbian Government is trying to continue with its clandestine support for the Bosnian Serbs, which is certainly to the detriment of the Bosnian people. Therefore, pressure must be put on Serbia so as to implement its decision against the Bosnian Serbs and to think of practical measures to defend the rights of Bosnian people, for the policy of procrastination and temporary solutions have proved their inefficiency.

Velayati Receives Visiting Indian Friday Imam

LD0808103494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Imam Bukhari, Friday imam of New Delhi, who is currently on a visit in Tehran, met with Foreign Minister Velayati today. He praised the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in creating unity among the Muslims of the world and said: Muslims believe in a single God, prophet, and book. Any disunity among the world's Muslims is a result of the plots of the enemies of Islam.

Mr. Velayati for his part emphasized the need for Islamic unity and called for the prevention of the appearance of any differences or clashes among Muslims. The foreign minister of our country spoke of the historical and deep-rooted relations between the peoples of Iran and India and described the relations between the two countries as expanding.

The Friday imam of new Delhi has travelled to Iran to visit the pure shrine of Imam Reza [in Mashhad], peace be upon him, and other holy sites.

'Ingenuineness' of U.S. Nuclear Position Viewed

LD0608102994 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 6, (IRNA)—The ingenuineness of the U.S. commitment to the nuclear non-proliferation has come to the fore again after the revelation of Iraqi-Saudi cooperation on the development of nuclear weapons in the 80s. As far as the lessons India must take from this, she should not be swayed by Washington's altruistic campaign for the nuclear non-proliferation in Asia in general and south Asia in particular.

The above-mentioned disclosure points to a very vital issue—either the United States had given green signal to Saudi Arabia and Iraq to go ahead with their joint nuclear program or the U.S. intelligence lacked the capability to monitor clandestine nuclear weapons development activities of an ally.

The second scenario seems far less authentic. This is because the U.S. intelligence has been actively monitoring the day-to-day affair of American allies and in some cases reported back to the Capitol Hill the issues of even less significance.

For instance, the U.S. satellites had already intercepted the movement of Iraqi tanks to Kuwaiti border on August 1, 1990. Consequently the U.S. knew about Iraqi aggression by 24 hours in advance. And this was admitted by the then U.S. President Bush.

As in the case of Saudi Arabia, even one of the most inexperienced intelligence must have sensed the purpose of Saudi Government acquiring the Chinese CSS-2 missiles which carry nuclear warheads.

This means that for the sake of some larger interests the U.S. has always sacrificed its objective of nuclear non-proliferation. Thus, when Saudi-Iraqi nuclear collaboration was on, Saudi Arabia had invested to the tune of the two hundred billions in the U.S., it was the U.S. chief oil exporter and importer of arms, and, being a patron like state within the (P)GCC [(Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council], was a bulwark against the Soviet penetration, political or military, in the Arabian peninsula.

As regards Iraq, it was waging a war against the U.S. potential enemy in the Persian Gulf, Iran, and in the process was implicitly playing the role of American policeman in that region. By now there does not exist any doubt about the nuclear assistance to Iraq by American firms as well as those from the West Europe, at the behest of the U.S., during the 80s.

Thus, what India may expect of the U.S. policy of nuclear non-proliferation is that it would look away as some of its allies continue to develop nuclear weapons and focus its attention exclusively on the countries which appear to it as a future threat—India and Iran figure prominently in this list.

As the Saudi example shows, the U.S. allies, on any other country for that matter, shall go ahead developing nuclear weapons clandestinely or possibly in collaboration with or approval from the U.S. even if they are signatory to the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty]. Thus, a region-based NPT regime shall not reduce the danger of nuclear threat. India, therefore, need not give in to one such proposal—denuclearization of south Asia—from the U.S.

More importantly, the U.S. Administration has failed in convincing the targeted "would-be NPT-countries" that it is really against nuclear proliferation. Two former Presidents, Bush and Reagan, and the present incumbent, Clinton, have testified it before the Congress that its allies are not intending to develop nuclear weapons. The Iraqi example in the first stance and now the disclosures about Saudi Arabia have laid the U.S. administration's penchant for misleading their own parliament bare.

In concluding words "the U.S. policy on non-proliferation" says K. Subramanyam, India's topmost defence expert, "in Asia affects India's security, while the Indian nuclear policy has no impact on the U.S. security. Therefore, onus of establishing credibility is on the U.S."

Editorial Warns of U.S. 'Ploys'

NC0708072494 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 1 Aug 94 p 1

[Editorial: "A New Phase in Opposition to Islam"]

[Text] The scenario staged by the United States last week against the Islamic Republic of Iran was, as usual, the most pivotal weapons of its mass media. First, it announced that the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Caracas, Venezuela, intended to participate in an abduction. This resulted in straining Tehran- Caracas relations and our ambassador was summoned.

Later the center of Zionism in Argentina, known as the philanthropic center of the Jews, was destroyed by a bomb explosion. In its wake, this terrorist action was ascribed to Iranians and it has been stated that Tehran-Buenos Aires relations are now strained.

Subsequently, two bomb explosions shook London. The United States capitalized on this, and in addition to adopting an official stance, it dragged the issue to the Security Council.

This scenario was staged when the United States was involved in pushing the peace process forward in the Middle East. King Husayn signed a separate peace accord with Israel and the United States became more optimistic of moving a step forward toward the final stage for a multilateral peace between the usurper of Jerusalem and its Arab neighbors.

If the Syrians join this peace trend and bring the Lebanese with them as well, every country that takes a stance against these conditions will be seen as opposed to peace, and naturally world public opinion will not tolerate this state of affairs.

World public opinion does not have an independent existence but constitutes a wave of sensitivities of the news-receiving audience shaped by the mass media of the West and the United States, who wield the controls. In such circumstances, the Islamic Republic of Iran is linked to all terroristic incidents. This is while the most sacred sites in Islamic Iran itself are attacked with bombs, but the international community does not even bat an eyelid.

The United States and Israel have gone a step ahead and are hopeful of strong reactions by the Security Council toward any future occurrence. The United States wishes to use all the levers of pressure against the Islamic Republic of Iran from the rise of Islamism to the incidence of terrorism. This indicates that the White House is serious in using all the instruments and any new operations in this regard.

In the latest move by the United States, it feels that it has managed to mar relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and three other countries: Venezuela, Britain, and Argentina. As the number of these countries increases, the U.S. opportunities in the international community will multiply.

One should beware of U.S. ploys and should compile a strategy to counteract and confront them. The issue of Zionism and Israel is not limited to one topic but incorporates a wave of news dissemination that the United States intends to use as a weapon.

U.S. Seen Punishing Turkey for Tehran Relations

NC0608193094 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 2 Aug 94 p 12

[Ruzbeh Bu ol-Hari commentary: "Turkey at an Impasse?"]

[Excerpts] On Friday night [29 July] The joint committee of the U.S. Congress decided to withhold 10 percent of the U.S. Government financial assistance to Turkey for fiscal year 1995. Even though this U.S. action was ostensibly because of Turkey's stance on the Turkish Kurds and the Cyprus issue, it appears that Ankara's refusal to suspend its relations with Tehran was the catalyst for this action on the part of the United States.

The spokesman for the Turkish Foreign Ministry, Farhad Ataman, replied to a request by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher: Ankara will continue its relations with its neighbors and with regional countries on the basis of mutual interests and in the cause of ensuring regional security.

This negative Turkish response to the United States—in view of the recent revamping of its foreign policy, especially after the resignation of Hikmet Cetin, the foreign minister in Tansu Ciller's government—indicates that most of the politicians in Ankara are seeking greater independence in their regional and international policies.

In this regard, the following two basic points can be mentioned to justify the new foreign policy of Turkey:

1. The Caucasus and Central Asia: In the wake of the collapse of the former Soviet Union, Turkey strove to get the West's support for its influence in the region. [passage omitted]

2. The issue of Iraqi Kurdistan: In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war in 1991 and the creation of safety zones in northern Iraq, murmurings were heard about the establishment of an independent Kurdish government. [passage omitted]

In any case, these two factors have caused Turkey to sense danger from the West, and the United States in particular. This has caused it to fear for its safety. It has therefore striven to get closer to Iran. The Turkish politicians believe that the broadening of Tehran-Ankara relations would enhance Turkey's influence in the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] and prevent the infiltration of the influence of the West and Russia in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

In addition, they know that they can form a Turkey-Iran axis and thus thwart all efforts to create a Kurdish government in northern Iraq.

In any case, there are other issues, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, which have created conditions for greater closeness between the two countries.

However, is it possible to be hopeful of Turkey's new policies? It appears that while the differences between Turkey and the West with regard to the above issues have not been resolved, important steps can be taken to broaden relations with Ankara for the sake of security and stability of the region. These steps should benefit the regional countries and oppose the Western countries.

Meanwhile, if the United States bestows some privileges on Turkey in the Caucasus and Central Asia and at the same time guarantees that Turkey will be given membership in the EU, one can certainly not have any such hopes from Turkey.

However, until such a time, Turkish foreign policy could change to the benefit of the regional interests. Such cooperation could be boosted by a reduction in the arms race, demilitarization of the Persian Gulf, and the establishment of an Islamic common market.

U.N. Urged To Condemn Israeli Attacks on Lebanon

LD0608073794 Tehran IRNA in English 0617 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, Aug. 6, (IRNA)—Iran termed the Zionist regime's air raids on Lebanon especially the Thursday attack on south Lebanon as an explicit instance of state terrorism and called for its condemnation by the international community.

In a letter to the U.N. secretary general, Iran's permanent representative Kamal Kharrazi yesterday denied the Zionist regime's charges of Tehran's support for terrorist acts in the world and said the Islamic Republic of Iran has on numerous occasions denounced terrorism and terrorist attacks against innocent people.

The Tel Aviv representative to the U.N. in a letter to Butrus Butrus-Ghali last Monday charged Iran with the training@of and equipping Lebanese Hizballah.

The letter said that, "Iran's moral support for Lebanese resistance stems from its principled position concerning the international opposition [words indistinct] Israeli acts of terrorism against innocent people of Lebanon and occupation of a part of their territory."

Mentioning Tel Aviv's acts of terrorism in Lebanon including air strikes, kidnappings and assassinations, the letter said, "one such act of state terrorism is Israeli bombardment of south Lebanon villages Thursday which killed 10 innocent civilians and injured dozens—an act which outraged the international community and deserves strong condemnation".

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sermon on 'Conspiracy'

LD0508134694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Second Friday sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 5 August—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] An issue that has an international aspect, and which is the main topic of my talk in this sermon, is the recent conspiracy, or pseudo-conspiracy, which we have faced in connection with the incidents in Argentina, London, Panama, and Venezuela. And we are still facing it. It has not passed us over yet. It requires our people's alertness.

It is a very strange phenomenon. By one analysis it could be a clear, planned plot. By another it could be the West utilizing and capitalizing on events in the world. It could be both. Based on the information I have, I cannot judge whether it is a planned conspiracy or whether they have capitalized on the events which have taken place.

What makes one conclude that it is a pre-planned plot is the issue of Venezuela. Because they have spoken of Argentina and Venezuela. The Venezuelan incident occurred before that explosion in Argentina. An Iranian fugitive, a counterrevolutionary and a charlatan, who has no connection with the government, became the axis of a movement in Venezuela. They said the Iranians wanted to abduct him and return him to Iran. They recalled their ambassador and expelled a number of our staff.

We treated it as a simple matter then. We believed that the worst scenario was that since Venezuela was nominated for the secretary generalship of OPEC and we did note vote in favor, it was making mischief. Of course, that in itself could be part and parcel of the conspiracy, if it is a conspiracy. Since the secretary generalship of the OPEC was our right. Since the war with Iraq it had been our right, but for one reason or another they did not vote for us.

And this time, too, so that we would not attain our right, the Saudis put forward Venezuela, a non-Arab country—against us. It was natural for us to defend our right. The Arabs and others voted for Venezuela. We did not. It needed a quorum, so was not elected. We thought those political moves were by way of an answer to us about the OPEC issue. Perhaps it was like that; I am not sure it is otherwise. But when the following events took place and they connected them, one became suspicious. They are strange events.

There are a number points noteworthy in the events. In Argentina there has been an explosion. In London—where there is an explosion every day—there has been an explosion. A plane has crashed somewhere. And they connected all of them. At the Security Council, officials of countries such as the United States, Argentina, and Britain entered the scene and targeted the Islamic Republic, without any proof or evidence—they had nothing.

Well! This could have brought the West a disgrace far bigger than what they are facing at the moment. Because let's face it, they have certainly been disgraced. The first positive aspect of the whole affair was that with the powerful presence of the Foreign Ministry in the Security Council and its clarification of issues, they realized that they are about to be disgraced and discredited. They, therefore, chose to make a retreat. First, Argentina retreated and then the others said that they really had no evidence. Most recently of all, the Israelis have said that they also possessed no evidence, and their allegations were merely based on what they believed to be the case.

It really is very unseemly for the United States—a country that considers itself the architect and guardian of a new order and seeks to safeguard human rights and peace in the Far East, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, and all over the world—to disgrace itself in such a manner by leading the way in making allegations against an innocent country so as to exploit the situation and remedy a grudge that the revolution's history has created in their black hearts. They utter the words of accusation in such a rash and unfounded manner as though they imagine that there are absolutely no judges or referees anywhere in the world, and as if no one will ever try to judge the affair fairly. They were, however, very quick to realize their mistakes, although they did suffer damage. Of course, they are not going to remain idle, since they have suffered such losses that they feel they still have to defend themselves.

Another issue that really astonished the world was the policy of double standards. An undisputed bomb blast occurred in the shrine of Imam Reza on 'Ashura [20 June 1994], and 26 pilgrims were killed while many more were injured. Subsequently, the case was fully clarified and the group and the agents that perpetrated the act were identified. They appeared before the whole nation, and we also invited foreign reporters to come here and see everything for themselves. Around the same time, two or three priests, which you, the West, reserve so much respect for, were killed here. Initially, of course, you sought to use the issue within the framework of your conspiracies—that is as a part of your whole conspiracy [as heard]. The perpetrators of these acts, too, confessed to their crime. They took part in interviews, talked to foreign reporters, offered their apologies and repented. The whole world saw it too.

Well! This was a clear case. We told the Foreign Ministry officials to tell the UN Security Council, which says one must fight terrorism, that the first documented case that it was going to receive would come from us. We said we would bring this case forward and ask for judgement on it. What are you going to do with the self-confessed terrorists who planted a bomb in the shrine of Imam Reza, killed the innocent priests, and intended to plant bombs in the shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumeh and his eminence Imam Khomeyni? This is really a disgrace, and our world must be ashamed of these people who claim to be the leaders of the world. The people of the world have unfortunately succumbed to these oppressions. However, throughout the course of the history, God has never allowed them to carry out their conspiracies.

As I said before, a pessimistic judgement is that the whole thing was a conspiracy right from the start. An optimistic judgement, on the other hand, would be that after a series of different incidents, the architects of their propaganda started to think and say that it would be useful if one could blame the Islamic Republic of Iran for these incidents. Thus far, however, they have failed. God willing, they will face even more disgrace in the future. [Crowd chants in support of Khamene'i and the revolution, and in condemnation of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, Israel, and the United States] [passage omitted]

Rafsanjani Interviewed on Economy, Terrorism

LD0708184694 Tehran IRNA in English 1531 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA—ETTELA'AT INTERNATIONAL in its Friday issue printed an exclusive interview with Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani during which he elaborated on major internal issues, including economic situation in the country and its foreign relations.

To a question whether present Iranian society could pass through the difficult stage of "transitional economic period" and whether elimination of subsidies would entail adverse economic consequences for the vulnerable masses of the society in the long run, the president answered that the plan was launched in the post-war era, that is to say, when we had the ruins of war and the difficulties of the post-war period including the earthquakes and foreign pressures, however, the society has well preserved its balance and the process of development is keeping its pace.

As for the issue of subsidies, we have selected the moderate way, that is to say, we did not press the people, he said adding that when we eliminated the subsidies we increased the salaries of those who were being paid.

On the probable contradictions between economic reforms and economic justice, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that no such contradictions existed. The standard of living of low income classes has greatly improved, he said adding that subsidies are against justice in nature. The vivid example of this is the issue of fuel, see how a well-to-do family consumes subsidized oil, electricity and gas while the consumption of the same items in a poor family is very low in comparison, Rafsanjani said. He added that the elimination of subsidies is a measure in the direction of putting an end to such an injustice.

Asked to further elaborate on his remarks a few months ago that the country's economy had reached a stage that the development projects could be implemented with a slower pace even if the oil valves were turned off, Rafsanjani said that, in fact, people cannot believe that the country has reached a stage that could continue its reconstruction projects without even a single drop of oil...I should say that in the past year we opened lc [as received] worth some dlrs. 7-8 billion whereas the figure stood at dlrs. 28-30 billion in the previous years. Today, almost the majority of our factories have their required raw materials.

He added that our need to hard currency has decreased to a great extent because earlier we spent our foreign exchange on the infrastructural projects.

On Iran's achievements in the field of foreign investment and whether the issue would reach a final settlement, the president remarked that we have no legal problem as far as up to 49 percent of foreign investment is concerned.

He added that foreign investment in Iran was carried out in a buy-back way in which the investor invests in a certain project and then he will be given a share in the products of that project and the management is with Iran. The president added that another method adopted was financing through which we, while accepting all risks and undertaking the managerial role, got money from a source for a certain plan. After the plan had been implemented we began to repay the money usually within a five-year period...but this type of investment entails some repayment problem. More precisely, in the event of an unforeseen situation such as a slump in the prices of oil this may cause delay in repayment of foreign debts. We have so far managed to have them rescheduled for another four or five years at a very low interest rate and we have made profits.

On import and export policies, President Rafsanjani said that at present restrictions are imposed on the import of goods that are produced inside the country while at the same time we are in favor of competition.

Questioned about some bitter and sweet days in his life, Rafsanjani said I cannot remeber any specific matter that I can term as a bitter day. But the sweet part of my work is that I can see great and infrastructural projects implemented successfully, however, the bitter part of my job is when I see a problem emerging in the country, say shortage of medicine, or when I see we have to rely on foreign countries.

The president also said that his son was collecting pieces of information to prepare his memoires. Expressing his views on recent bombings of Zionist centers and attribution of such operations to Iran, he said that Iran condemned such acts in principle and that such activities had never borne any fruits.

"Now that the issue of terrorism has become a difficult task in the contemporary era, some believe that they could hurt the feeling of the world people by resorting to such policies. Our enemies abide by no commitment. The Zionists and Americans will level whatever charges they wish while they themselves have officially given asylum to the identified terrorists and would support them," he said.

President Rafsanjani added that the West "would provide them (the terrorists) with tv and radio stations, would permit them to stage demonstrations and would invite them to their gatherings. On the other hand, they would level charges against us. This is a well- known weapon. However, unfortunately they are doing mischiefs."

Majles Approves 'Outlines' of Five-Year Plan

LD0808084194 Tehran IRNA in English 0823 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—The Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) in its open session here Monday approved the outlines of the bill on the second five-year economic, social and cultural development plan.

At the session, Majlis deputies Jalil Rashidi, Mahmud Astaneh, Mohammad Reza Khabbaz, Nafiseh Fayyazbakhsh, Lotfollah Zare'i- Qanavati and Hasan Kamran-Dastjerdi spoke against while Hasan Qashqavi, Ghaffar Esma'ili, Hasan Soleymani, Mohsen Yahyavi and 'Ali Movaheddi-Savoji spoke in favor of the bill.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht rapporteur of the Majlis incorporate commission for studying the bill and head of the Plan and Budget Organization Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani defended the bill.

The outlines of the second plan are divided into four categories which include the qualitative macro targets, basic policies, general policies and clauses. The session, presided over by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, started deliberations over the clauses immediately. The bill has a total of 30 clauses.

Culture Ministry Announces Press Subsidies

LD0608184894 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan) Aug. 6, IRNA—Press deputy of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mr. Ash'ari, said Saturday that this year dlrs 50 million foreign exchange had been devoted to the cultural activities of the ministry of which dlrs 30 million will be at the disposal of the press.

He said the foreign exchange credits, except for the widely circulated dailies, will be at the disposal of newspapers in the form of preparing possibilities for printing cheaply.

He added that some measures had been done in the area of reducing the post cost of the printed media and until the next two weeks will fall to 25 per cent of the present price.

He added this year rls 20 billion subsidy has been considered for the press.

The official said the exhibition of book publishers will be held in Mashhad this September.

Last year 110 authorizations were issued for press and at present 450 periodicals and newspapers are printed in the country, he said.

Minister on Petrochemical, Agricultural Production

LD0608205394 Tehran IRNA in English 2025 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Ardebil, Aug. 7, IRNA—Morteza Mohammad Khan, finance and economic affairs minister said here today that the country now produces 10 million tons of petrochemicals every year.

He said by the end of this calendar year (March 1995), the country, which now has a supply of all refined oil products, will not need to import those items from abroad.

The minister noted that during the past five years the gross national produce has increased 7.7 per cent.

He said the production of agriculture and animal husbandry in the country had increased from 45 million tons in 1988 to 57 million tons in 1993 and the amount of wheat imports too decreased from six million tons in 1988 to two million tons in 1993.

Sports Official Criticized for BBC Interview

NC0708103594 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 31 Jul 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Mr. Hashemi-Taba, Why You?"]

[Text] In recent years the BBC has used a method to make its Persian language program more interesting—a method that has been successful to a certain extent—by calling various officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the phone and broadcasting interviews with them. This method had three objectives: to make the colonialist radio programs more interesting, to interject the radio's own views and to resort to a type of mischief; and to mitigate the indecent nature of this colonialist radio and to normalize contacts between the Islamic Republic's officials and a radio that has been playing the role of the "mouthpiece of colonialism" for at least a century.

A couple of years ago the culmination of such contacts and the large number of interviews with officials by this colonialist radio sparked off criticism by some domestic press. This resulted in the matter being discussed by the government, which decided that officials should refrain from being interviewed by the BBC. But the mouthpiece of colonialism is so impudent that it has not stopped its importunate behavior and continues to try to interview officials of the Islamic Republic; unfortunately some officials are also fascinated about being interviewed by this radio!

Last week we read reports that in protest of the censorship and partial behavior of the BBC, one of its Persian-language announcers had resigned, yet an interview with Dr. Hashemi-Taba, head of the Iranian Physical Training Organization, was broadcast over the radio within a matter of days after this resignation! Basically speaking, being interviewed by this colonialist radio is not right because of the radio's bad record and of the points that we have made. The topic of the BBC's interview was precisely what some Iranian newspapers had wanted the head of the Physical Training Organization to comment on, but he had been avoiding it for two weeks. He finally opened his mouth for the BBC!

What we have to say to Mr. Hashemi-Taba is: The reason that some of the press and sports circles welcomed your appointment as head of the organization was because they thought that you were willing to save sports in the country from some of the ills that stem from lack of attention to value criteria. But, unfortunately, your views on the presence of women in sports stadiums, which you expressed during your interview with the BBC, and your refusal to speak to Iranian correspondents while you welcomed an interview with the BBC, as well as some of your stances and acts, have wiped out all our past beliefs. And now the question is: Why you of all people?!

Mr. Hashemi-Taba! invest heavily in sports for women so that while observing all the norms concerning sports for women, all their needs, too, will be accomodated. Make sports universal so that all people in any part of the country can easily engage in it. All these things can be done through correct planning and without wasting any money from the sports budget. If you do so, there will be no need for women to come to watch men's sports, and we will not be witnesses to immorality stemming from this. But you must know that with your "step by step" policy, which you referred to in your BBC interview, you will not be able to push women to stadiums to watch male athletes. The Western countries are now thinking of ways to separate women and men in sports. How backward should we be as to allow the Islamic Republic of Iran to adopt a negative path that has already been tested by the West and proven to be a failure?!

Mr. Hashemi-Taba! We do not consider you to be at a distance from values. Try to walk on the line of values and you will succeed. In that case, you will not need to be interviewed by the BBC and you can speak to our own press and radio and television, and rest assured that your remarks will be welcomed by a people who have made a revolution.

Paper Discusses Need To Ban Satellite Dishes

NC0708120294 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jul 94 p 2

[Hoseyn Shari'atmadari commentary: "As for the Satellite..."]

[Text] Although making decisions on some issues may be difficult because of their "complicated" nature and many deliberations and discussions are needed before any is made, it should be noted that "trying to portray something as being complicated" is also an ill. Unfortunately, we can clearly see signs of this ill in some decisionmaking and policymaking centers of our Islamic society. As an example, we can refer to the issue of making decisions on how the satellite phenomenon and dishes should be confronted.

The issue is very clear and simple. Therefore, making a decision on it should not be too difficult. It is surprising to see that the officials involved have not starting trying to make a final decision and that no final solution has been found for such a clear issue. One person says that the satellite is the outcome of technology and should not be opposed, without explaining who opposes technology. Another person says that whether we want it or not, satellites will come, without explaining the reason for his passive attitude. They say that many useful programs can be watched via satellite. But they do not say what should be done about the immoral programs that are also aired. They say that satellite programs entertain youths and fill their leisure hours.

There is no doubt that satellites air both good and bad and useful and immoral programs, because today even the deceivers know what to do to sell their counterfeit products! Assuming that satellites do air a great number of useful and productive programs among their deceptive and immoral ones, and assuming that we view all this outside the framework of the enemy's plots and plans, the question still remains: What price do we have to pay to receive these constructive and useful programs?

The main issue here is clear and can be summed up in one phrase: allowing satellites means placing our television policymaking at the disposal of foreigners or issuing a permit to the enemies and foreigners to establish dozens of networks. If this is so, and it is, then why all this leniency and carelessness in making a decision? In addition to all this, neglecting the presence of satellites will have two dangerous and threatening results:

A. The destruction of our culture and the propagation of immorality: This is one of the major objectives of the enemies in confronting our traditional and life-instilling culture and the Islamic revolution. It is something that is extremely clear and needs no further proof.

B. The stagnation of scientific and technological progress in our Islamic homeland because various entertaining programs and 24-hour broadcasts by satellite channels—even if we assume that these programs are not immoral and are not intended to inflict cultural harm—will waste the time and talent of the children who will build the country's future during a time in their lives when their thoughts and ideas are blossoming. This is one of the destructive problems that the Western countries are facing today.

It should be noted that on the basis of scientific research conducted in the United States by an Iranian professor named Dr. Yahya Kamalpur, which was recently published in the CHICAGO TRIBUNE, because of the great number of television networks American children spend most of their time watching television and do not show much enthusiasm in learning, so much so that this problem is worrying American education planners very much.

Undoubtedly this will be the outcome of the unconditional presence of satellites and allowing the free installation of satellite dishes. This is a destructive virus that seriously threatens the mental and scientific health of society. Therefore, carelessness and procrastination in decisionmaking is not only unacceptable but also harmful. It is especially surprising that the esteemed Majles has not made a swift decision on this issue and that the matter is being delayed so much.

Finally, we can and should invest in the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and allocate more credits to it to receive satellite programs so that the committed experts of the organization will separate the useful from the immoral and air what should be aired and omit what should be emitted on our domestic television for the people.

Qazvin Demonstrations Support Regime

'Thousands' of Basijis Rally

LD0608210194 Tehran IRNA in English 2045 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Qazvin, Aug. 7 [date as received], IRNA—Tens of thousands of basijis of the Ashura battalions from Qazvin and its districts performed maneuvers here today.

The basijis who participated in this maneuver were from Qazvin, Alamout, Abyek, Bouin Zahra, Roudbar and other places. The womens unit of the basijis also took part in the maneuvers.

They shouted 'Down with saboteurs' and also 'What is America thinking about, Qazvin is full of basijis".

At the end of this maneuver they assembled at the An-Nabi mosque and listened to the speech of the commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps of Qazvin Hojjat ol-Eslam Zahrabi.

They reaffirmed their support for the revolution, the leader and the Islamic system.

Basijis are popular forces made up of dedicated volunteers from various walks of life. Their massive mobilization throughout the country and their faith and valour during the 8-year Iraqi aggression (1980-88) have become proverbial and was an unnerving factor for the enemy.

On Wednesday last, a group of anti-social elements tried to exploit a demonstration demanding provincial status for Tabriz [as received], by looting and burning public and private properties.

The situation was quickly brought under control by the city's committed people who have strongly condemned the opportunists' attempt to give a semblance of violence to a normal popular demand.

Motorcyclists Stage 'Maneuver'

LD0608185694 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Qazvin, Aug. 6, IRNA—Hundreds of basijis [mobilization of the oppressed] of Qazvin riding on motorcycles staged an imposing maneuver in this city today.

The motorcycle riding basijis clad in formal dress were chanting 'Ya Hoseyn', 'Death to America,' 'Hezbollah is Victorious' on the streets of Qazvin as by-standers cheered them.

The basijis of Qazvin also condemned the destruction of public places and ruining the possessions of the people by chaotic groups on Wednesday last.

Religious Ceremonies Reported

LD0708142294 Tehran IRNA in English 1243 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Qazvin, Zanjan Province, 7 Aug (IRNA)—The residents of Qazvin here today commemorated the departure of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him), the last messenger of God, and the martyrdom of his grandson Imam Hassan (a.s.).

The traditional and ritual procession started here early in the day. A large crowd of mourners commemorated the departure of Prophet Mohammad in the year 632 (28 Safar 11 h.) and the martyrdom of the second imam of the prophet's blessed household, Imam Hassan Mojtaba (a.s.) in the year 670 (28 Safar 50 h.). The processioners also gathered in the city mosques of Imamzadeh Hassan, Imamzadeh Ismail, Masjid Un-Nabi and many other religious places to listen to the religious sermons.

New Governor General of Chaharmahal va Bakhtiyari

LD0808102694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] In today's session of the Administrative Council of Chaharmahal va Bakhtiyari Province, Interior Minister Besharati introduced 'Abdollah Kuhpa'i as the new governor general of that province and thanked the previous governor general for his services.

DPK Statements on Killing of Leader, 'Terrorism'

Regime Blamed for Death

NC0608134094 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Statement by the Political Bureau of the DPK in Iran on 4 August]

[Excerpts] O combatants of the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] in Iran, struggling people of Kordestan, noble compatriots: The Political Bureau of the DPK in Iran announces with regret and sorrow that at 1500 this afternoon on 4 August 1994, our combatant comrade Ghafur Hamza'i, member of the Central Committee of the DPK in Iran and the party's representative in Iraq, was attacked outside the door of his residence in Baghdad by the terrorists of the Islamic republic and was martyred.

Thus, another black page has been added to the history of the Tehran regime, already replete with assassinations and atrocities, and another wayfarer on the path to freedom has joined the caravan of Kordish martyrs. [passage omitted]

The martyrdom of comrade Ghafur Hamza'i is, in fact, an enormous and heart-rending loss for the DPK in Iran and for our popular democratic movement. His loss is mourned by his comrades in arms in the trenches and all those who sympathize with the Kordish people. [passage omitted on condolences]

The DPK Political Bureau requests the Iraqi Government to seriously pursue the terrorists and to see that they receive their just deserts for their criminal misdeeds. It also calls on the international community not to remain silent regarding the assassinations and killings by the Islamic Republic and to stop the expansion of this regime's illegal actions.

Blessings on the pure soul of the martyr on the path of freedom, comrade Ghafur Hamza'i, and may his proud path continue! Death and disgrace will befall the terrorist and terrorist-nurturing regime of the Islamic Republic!

Regime's 'Terrorism' Viewed

NC0708080694 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Statement issued by the Political-Military Committee of the Democratic Party of Kordestan dated 5 August 1994]

[Text] Dear compatriots, combatant people of Kordestan. The Islamic Republic's terrorism is intensifying and adopting vaster dimensions each day. The Islamic Republic does not recognize any borders and the sovereignty of any country when perpetrating such acts. The entire world has become an arena for terrorist acts by the mercenaries of reaction, and identical reports are being received from Asia, Europe, and America on crimes perpetrated by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

However, because of its geographic situation and the special conditions ruling it, Iraqi Kurdistan has become a more favorable arena for the inhuman acts by the terrorists of the Islamic Republic. During the past three years, dozens of terrorist acts have been carried out against combatants of the Iranian opposition in this area, while dozens of plots have been thwarted before being implemented.

During the past few weeks alone hirelings of the Islamic Republic in Iraqi Kurdistan perpetrated such terrorist acts against the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran [DPK]. On 27 Khordad 1373 [17 June 1994], the mercenaries of reaction shot at a vehicle carrying several peshmerga on the Sulaymaniyah-Baziyan highway, as a result of which comrade Ahmad Mohammadpur, a peshmerga of the party committee in Area Two of southern Kordestan, was martyred and four peshmerga were wounded.

At 0230 on 2 Mordad 1373 [24 July 1994] in (Basermah) township a veteran combatant of our party named Morad Mohammadzadeh, who had retired because of old age, was martyred in a grenade attack. It should be noted that he was the last member of his family, since in 1358 [1979] all the members of his family were massacred in (Siyak) village in the (Samer) region by the murderers of the regime of the reactionaries.

At 1330 on 9 Mordad 1373 [31 July 1994] on the Diyalan-Shaqlawah highway, agents of the Islamic Republic fired at a party vehicle. As a result of this inhuman act, two combatant members of our party named Mohammad Derakhshani and (Mohammad Amin) were martyred, while two were wounded.

On several occasions during the past few years, our party has warned the officials of the government in the Kurdistan area of such acts. It has requested that they try harder to maintain the safety of the Iranian opposition members, as well as regional security, and to end the incursions by the Iranian regime's murderers. However, sufficient attention has not been paid to these warnings and serious steps to prevent such incidents have not been taken.

Thus, we hereby address all the political forces in Iraqi Kurdistan, especially the two major forces inside the government in Iraqi Kurdistan, and once again request that they regard this dreadful phenomenon with more responsibility and do their best to cooperate to ensure the security of the region and the lives of the combatants of the Iranian opposition.

At the same time, we call on all the respectable Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan to each do his best to identify the mercenaries of the Iranian regime and to cooperate with the government in the Kurdistan region, political organizations, and combatants of the Iranian opposition to ensure the security of the region. Only through the cooperation of everyone can the disturbances and the terrorism by the enemies of freedom be prevented.

We extend our sincere condolences on the martyrdom of the [word indistinct] victims of the Islamic Republic's terrorism to the families of the martyrs and to the Kurdish people. At the same time, we assure the Kurdish people that their sacred path will be continued. Thousands of greetings to the pure souls of these martyrs and to all those who were martyred in the fight for freedom. Death to terrorism and to the terrorism nurturers.

[Signed] The DPK Political-Military Committee

[Dated] 14 Mordad 1373 [5 August 1994]

Pakistan

'Changes' in U.S. Policy on South Asia Reviewed

BK0708160294 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 7 Aug 94 P 10

[Editorial: "The U.S. Policy on Pakistan"]

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives has approved a bill for $13.7 billion in foreign aid. According to the bill, Pakistan will not be receiving any aid. The bill suspends U.S. small-arms supplies to Indonesia and curtails the military loan to Turkey by 10 percent.

The United States is taking steps against Muslim countries in general. The changes in the U.S. policy after it emerged as the "sole superpower" following the demise of the Soviet Union are not surprising to either Pakistan or other Islamic countries. The United States is grooming Israel as a superpower in the Middle East. It is not only supplying Israel with nuclear weapons, but also with the latest missiles, an antimissile missile system, the latest F-16 planes, and other weapons. In South Asia, the United States has decided to give a "free hand" to India on Kashmir and nuclear weapons production based on the premise that India has the right to develop a strong national defense. The change in the U.S. policy on Kashmir is evident from the fact that India has stepped up a hundredfold its genocidal steps against Kashmiris during the last few weeks.

The U.S. policy, it seems, is intended to impose Israel as a superpower on the Islamic countries of the Middle East and surrounding regions and to ensure Indian hegemony in South Asia, thereby making Pakistan dependent on it or a "subordinate" state. Another reason for allowing India to build nuclear weapons, not objecting to its Prithvi missile and ignoring the development of a long-range missile like Agni, is to prepare India against China so as to keep China within "it limits."

There are now only two countries unwilling to accept Indian hegemony and be cowed down by it. One is Pakistan and the other is China. The traditional friendship between the two countries is well-known to everyone, including the United States and India. Therefore, efforts are being made to restrain China from providing military assistance to Pakistan and to create a situation leading to cracks in Pakistan-PRC relations.

The U.S. decision not to give any aid to Pakistan should serve as an eye-opener for the Benazir government. After Pakistan became a [word indistinct] of the United States on the nuclear program issue, and after the anti-Pakistan decisions, the Bhutto government should now review the policy. We should now realize that the United States, which has now the "best" relations with India as well, might endanger Pakistan's existence with the cooperation of India and Israel.

The situation on the Line of Control [LOC] in Kashmir is indicative of the change in the U.S. policy on South Asia, especially Kashmir. Pakistan has alerted its troops on the LOC and this makes it easy for everyone to realize the seriousness of the situation. We would like to request the Government of Pakistan to examine the situation and caution Pakistan's friends as well. The most important thing is to bring an end to the confrontation within the country and to strengthen the country's unity and integrity.

Need To Strengthen Defense System Noted

BK0808094894 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 8 Aug 94 p 4

[Editorial: "The Decision To Strengthen the Air Defense System"]

[Text] According to our staff reporter, Pakistan will acquire anti-aircraft guns and a sophisticated radar system to make its defense system effective and strong in view of the security threat it faces from the Indian Air Force and its missiles. Further, a research report has been prepared and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has been given a briefing on it. The report, in principle, has been approved by the prime minister. Resumption of the program to manufacture surface-to-air missiles is also under consideration. No right-thinking person will object to the adoption of necessary measures to make

Pakistan's defense strong and impregnable. The sole target of India's missile program is Pakistan. We should understand our responsibility in fulfilling our defense requirements. India is not the only country in the world that has missiles; all the developed industrialized nations have them. No single country has a monopoly over missile technology. Pakistan has so many resources in men and material that it can also manufacture short- and long-range missiles. The initial experiments carried out by Pakistan these days were successful in all aspects. However, later it had to suspend the program on the advice of certain friends. During this period, India has been continuing its efforts to manufacture Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, and Akash missiles, and, in view of its success, Pakistan has also felt the need to resume its missile program. Pakistan is not in favor of commencing a competition in lethal weapons, outside of missile production, in the region and it has been openly speaking along these lines. However, owing to India's discordant position, Pakistan is also constrained to involve itself in the race. Pakistan hoped that the United States and other major countries would use their good offices to restrain India from triggering an arms race and also motivate it to use the valuable resources spent on its war frenzy in eradicating the poverty of its people. However, in view of their silence and India's aggressive designs, Pakistan has no other alternative but to manufacture missiles and strengthen its defense.

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